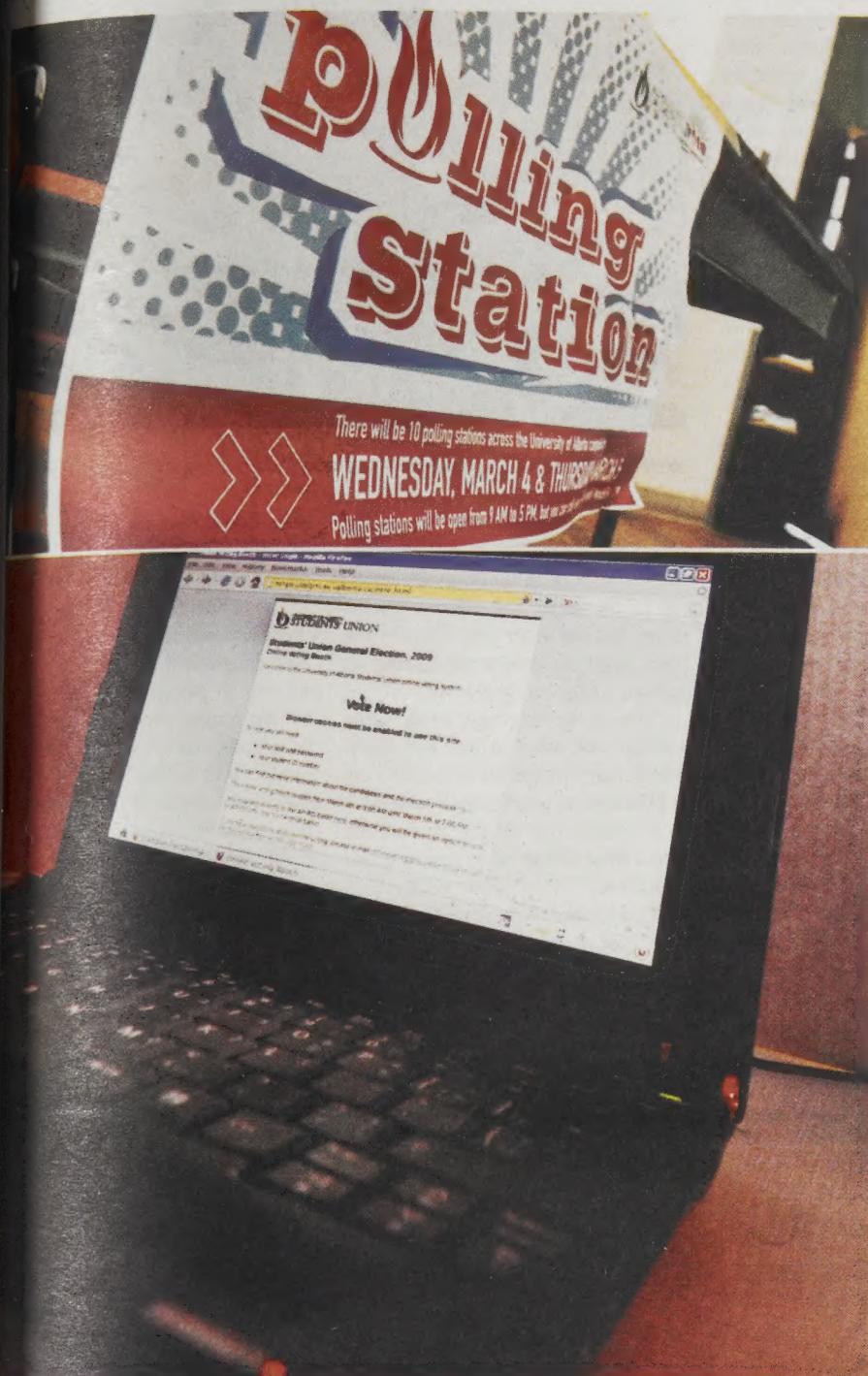


THE GATEWAY

Volume XCIX Number 38 • the official student newspaper at the University of Alberta • www.thegatewayonline.ca • Thursday, 5 March, 2009



GET OUT THE VOTE Online polls opened yesterday morning for students to cast their ballots in the SU executive elections. For more information on early voting statistics, turn to page 2.

Israeli Apartheid Week stirs controversy across country

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

As international attention continues to focus on the growing hostility of Israeli-Palestinian relations in the Middle East, domestic attention has focused itself on Edmonton's first annual Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW), which is currently taking place on the University of Alberta campus.

According to organizers, IAW is an educational campaign designed to raise awareness about the plight of Palestinian citizens caught in the crosshairs of conflict in the regions surrounding Gaza and the West Bank.

"Basically the goal is to raise awareness about the [...] situation in occupied territories of Palestine and events like the recent massacre in Gaza or the ongoing house demolition in the West Bank and East Jerusalem," explained Siavash Saffari, a political science graduate student and member of the Palestine Solidarity Network (PSN), one of two groups hosting this week's events.

While IAW makes its inaugural appearance in Edmonton, it's the fifth year the campaign has been staged globally. In 2009, over 40 cities ranging from Boston to Johannesburg will be participating in the initiative.

Running through until 7 March, the week's events include lectures, panel discussions, a film showing, and an open mic event on Saturday in SUB called "Expression Against Repression."

While the events are new to the Edmonton scene, they have not remained free from controversy. Several other university campuses across the country, including Carleton University and

the University of Ottawa, have banned IAW posters for their provocative content. One poster in particular advertising IAW depicts a small boy holding a teddy bear standing in front of a flying missile launched by a helicopter labelled "Israel."

Toronto's York University has also experienced similar issues in the past month, where city police are investigating a potential hate crime against Jewish students following an anti-Zionist protest in February that resulted in police escorting Hillel students off campus.

So far, events on the U of A campus haven't incited the same level of backlash.

"There has been some criticism here, but fortunately the University has been committed to freedom of speech and academic freedom, and they're allowing these events to take place."

SIAVASH SAFFARI
MEMBER, PALESTINIAN SOLIDARITY NETWORK

However, Jewish groups on campus remain on alert, and have expressed their discontent with the message being relayed.

"We support free speech on campus and freedom of thought, but we really don't support an activity like this because we believe it misrepresents accounts of history, it exaggerates and oversimplifies all situations, and even worse, as we've seen out east, it's often a venue or a medium for creating conflict on campus," observed Tevie Lipton, president of the Edmonton Hillel/Jewish Students Association.

"For the most part, it's the first year, [so] we're seeing how it goes," he added.

As the situation in the Middle East continues to escalate, both sides feel a sense of urgency surrounding this week's events.

PLEASE SEE APARTHEID • PAGE 3



FILE PHOTO: SAM BROOKS
SOUND OF SILENCE The halls of CJSR are quieter with the recent resignation of almost half of the FACRA Board, which oversees the station's licence.

CJSR witnesses resignation of three board members, program manager

Community-based radio station ponders changes to organizational staff structure in response

KIRSTEN GORUK
Deputy News Editor

In light of the resignation of three board members and their program manager this week, CJSR is considering making some changes within the organization.

According to Kevin Wilson, the interim president of the First Alberta Campus Radio Association (FACRA) Board of Directors—the society that holds the Edmonton-based independent radio station's broadcast licence—the resignation of their members

caught everyone off guard.

"I don't think we [expected] it, really. Sometimes you have the benefit of change happening in a sort of serial fashion, and sometimes change comes all at once and when that occurs, you just deal," Wilson explained.

Jeff Papineau, who was the first of the three members to leave the board, has been with the station for 15 years, including hosting his own show "Flying Saucer Rock & Roll," which has been on the air since 1995.

Papineau explained that his decision wasn't based on any organizational concerns, but rather the result of a hectic adult lifestyle.

"A lot of the changes that are starting to actually take place at the station are a little quicker than we anticipated. I could see that they were going to be coming up and that one of my roles as

being one of the senior people around there was not only to be a leader, but to lead by example and get in there and actually do the work," Papineau stated.

"My ability to suspend time at CJSR like I used to has been greatly diminished by my adult life stuff," he added.

Papineau not only removed himself from the board, but thought it best to leave his show behind as well.

"I felt as though if I couldn't keep up with all of the support roles of being part of the volunteer organization, I have misgivings about keeping the benefits," Papineau noted.

Along with Papineau, Dave McNeilly, who served as president of the board, and member Joanne Anderson have resigned.

PLEASE SEE CJSR • PAGE 5



Poster, poster, burning bright

You've been assaulted by the colourful, papery shrapnel of the SU's election poster explosion, but the *Gateway* feels your plight. Our panel fights back and tears up the best and the worst of the bunch.

POSTER SLAM 2009, PAGES 11-14

EXTRA! EXTRA!

No, seriously, you should read all about it. The *Gateway*'s annual elections special edition will appear on newsstands in SUB, HUB, CAB, and ETLC tomorrow with all the results from the Students' Union executive election.

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colophon

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plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in
a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna,
Kepler and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's
sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that
way." The Gateway's games of choice are voting and the
election night drinking game.

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uofavotes 2009

ELECTION FACTS

Polls opened yesterday morning for
the Students' Union executive elections and continue until 7pm tonight.
The Gateway brings you a mid-vote
number crunch of the latest data to
keep you up to speed on the voting
trends.The following numbers are accurate
as of 5pm on 4 March:

3063 votes cast

80% voted outside a
polling station10-11am saw the most
votes cast yesterday306 total people, on
average, voted
every hourUndergraduate students can vote
online by visiting the SU's website
at www.su.ualberta.ca/vote or
by logging on at a polling station
located in AgFor, CAB, DentPharm,
Education, ETLC, Humanities, Law,
SUB, Tory Business Atrium, and the
Faculté Saint-Jean.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Scott Lilwall and Pete YeeAndrea
Mackowetzky
Poli Sci IIIAs you may be aware, the Students' Union elections voting polls close today at 7pm.
Who's got your vote for SU President?Sahil Gupta
Science IIDani Gukert
Psych IIISabrina Rush
Science ICripes. I can't really name a candidate. I
wasn't planning on it.I really don't know yet. Not sure yet. Just
going to look into them [...] Jesse Hahn's
campaign is definitely a little more out
there.I think his first name is Craig, I can't
remember his last name. [Craig Turner?] Yeah, Craig Turner.I think the last name's Hahn. [Jesse
Hahn?] Yeah. I actually voted this
morning.

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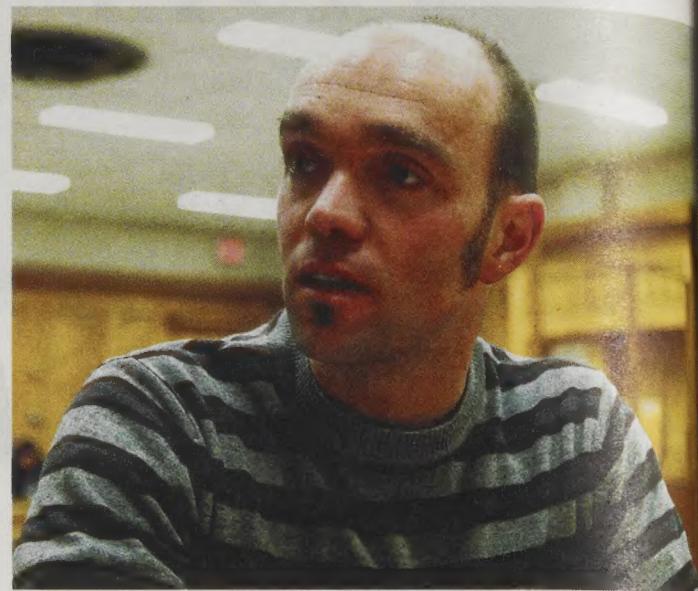
 

SUNSHINE VILLAGE skibash.com
GET OUTTA BOUNDS

Hamburger packaged with CO an option

PAIGE PARSONS
News WriterLast summer, a University of Alberta
researcher took part in an experiment
that explored consumers' reactions to
the use of highly toxic carbon monoxide
gas as a packaging agent for
hamburger—and uncovered some
counterintuitive results in the process.Sven Anders, an assistant professor
of rural economy in the Faculty of
Agriculture, Life, and Environmental
Sciences, and his team of researchers
worked to discover people's opinions
on packaging meat with the gas. The
technology, also known as modified
atmospheric packaging, extends the
shelf life of hamburger from the regular
two or three days to around 14 days."The carbon monoxide binds with
the hemoglobin in the meat, stabilizing
the red blood cells. It keeps the
meat cherry red and extends the shelf
life," Anders explained.Financial support for the study came
from the Alberta Livestock Industry
Development Fund and the Canadian
Beef Information Centre. Anders attributes
the meat industry's interest to the
fact that this technology, besides
providing a better product for consumers,
would provide meat producers with
an option that could lower costs of
production and distribute their product
more widely.Though studies have proven that the
process is safe, regulations in Canada
currently prohibit the use of additives
in ground beef; because carbon monoxide
gas binds to the meat, it falls under
this restriction. Health Canada and the
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
would have to approve a change in the
regulations before hamburger packaged
with carbon monoxide could be sold.

Another hurdle this technology



WHERE'S THE BEEF? Dr Anders studied consumer response to the packaging

faces, explained Anders, is the concern
posed by consumer activist groups over
carbon monoxide masking the spoilage
of the meat. The colour remains
shiny, but the other properties of the meat
begin to deteriorate during its
extended time on the shelves."The technology can mask some
spoilage; the colour is nice and shiny,
but the other properties of the meat are
not changed by any means," he said.To combat this danger, he cites the
importance of consumer alertness and
education."Consumers need to be aware and
they need to pay close attention to the
expiry date," he emphasized.The researchers' main aim while
conducting the experiment was to dis-
cover consumers' overall impressions
of the technology, including whether
they were willing to pay more for the
product. The study at the U of A was
the second of its kind, the first havingbeen carried out in the United States
in 2007 with a possible third trial
to take place in Germany later this year.The results of the Canadian exper-
iment showed that 60 per cent of the
205 consumers surveyed would be
willing to pay more for the benefit
of hamburger packaged with carbon
monoxide. Anders said that the infor-
mation will be used by the Canadian
meat industry to make some impor-
tant decisions about the technology."If they can find out that there is
positive willingness to pay [...] they
will certainly try to maximize that
all about profit, which is not, per-
bad thing," he remarked.It may be some time before han-
burger packaged with carbon monoxide
is available in Canada. Until then,
Anders and his team have provided
Canadian consumers and meat produc-
ers with some interesting infor-
mation to chew on.

PSE application system revamped

ApplyAlberta's move to a centralized online process will be launched this fall

JENNIFER HUYGEN
Senior News Editor

Students looking to apply to one of Alberta's 21 public postsecondary institutions this fall will be following a slightly different process than previous years thanks to an online initiative developed by the provincial government and participating schools.

ApplyAlberta is a centralized online application system that will allow students to apply to several postsecondary institutions in the province using one standardized profile. The system also allows students to authorize the transfer of high school and postsecondary transcripts between institutions, and will no longer require a \$10 fee to access those documents as in the past.

"This was basically something that would just make the application process easier and more helpful for students," said Rachel Bouska, public affairs officer with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology.

"We do realize that not all students just want to apply to one institution, so with them being able to apply to multiple postsecondary institutions and authorize the transfer of their high school transcript only once, that it cuts down on costs and also just creates that one-window application system."

According to Bouska, 16 687 students applied to two or more Alberta institutions in 2007, excluding Athabasca University's online programs. In total, 121 965 applications were submitted across the province, and upwards of 100 000 applications are expected over the upcoming year. Gerry Kendal, University of Alberta Vice Provost and Registrar, explained that the new process will combine a common front-end information

portion with existing institution-specific portions for students to specify program selections at the university, college, or technical institute of their choice.

"A student applying from an Alberta high school and [...] choosing between two or three provincial institutions, they make applications through the ApplyAlberta front end, and that's where the demographic information—names, addresses, phone numbers, all those sorts of things—are collected and stored in a very secure site," Kendal noted.

"This was basically something that would just make the application process easier and more helpful for students."

RACHEL BOUSKA
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

"Then the student will proceed through that and suggest [they] want to make an application to the U of A. So they'll point to the U of A and they'll then be migrated to what is about halfway through our existing online application."

Students, teachers, and counsellors will be informed about the changes, and existing web application sites at each institution will redirect students to the ApplyAlberta main page starting later this year, Kendal said.

ApplyAlberta first came to the forefront in 2005 when it was introduced in legislation as part of the Access to the Future Act. Since then, institutions

participating on a mandatory basis have come together with the government to work on the project, sharing costs, human resources, and finding common ground.

The total cost of the initiative is set at \$14.5 million, with the government funding the development and implementation of ApplyAlberta and the individual institutions responsible for ongoing operational funding.

Similar centralized application procedures are currently used in British Columbia and Ontario. Trudy Sykes, director of operations and communications with the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC), said that the process makes it easier for students.

"Basically, they'll give us what school they're interested in, what program are they interested in, their history, where they attended school, information about them, and then we gather that all together and bundle it and send it off to the universities that they're interested in," she explained.

One area that differs between Alberta's new system and Ontario's—which has been in place for 36 years—is that students pay a one-time fee of \$105 for application processing to the OUAC, while in Alberta students will still have to pay the application fee to each university they apply to.

Despite the changes the system itself will undergo as institutions prepare for fall's start date, the impact on individuals will be fairly neutral, said Kendal.

"In many ways, it's just not a large impact. We're sharing the site, doing the front-end, collecting some data. It'll be a little bit of a different front-end but a lot of students only go through the application process once, so many students won't even know that something different is going on."

APPLYALBERTA PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

- Alberta College of Art and Design
- Athabasca University
- The Banff Centre
- Bow Valley College
- Grand Prairie Regional College
- Keyano College
- Lakeland College
- Lethbridge College
- MacEwan College
- Medicine Hat College
- Mount Royal College
- NAIT
- NorQuest College
- Northern Lakes College
- Olds College
- Portage College
- Red Deer College
- SAIT Polytechnic
- University of Alberta
- University of Calgary
- University of Lethbridge

Effective speech can be contentious—Butko

APARTHEID • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I would probably argue in the most general sense that all sides are basically entrenching themselves farther away from peace than perhaps we've seen in decades," said Dr Tom Butko, a professor in the Department of Political Science.

Butko explained that the PSN's use of the word "apartheid" to describe the current political climate is a powerful and controversial way to get the message across.

"If you support the Israeli position, you don't believe that it's apartheid. If you support the Palestinian position, then you say, 'Well, what is apartheid? It's denying a group of people basic human rights or even voting participation and citizenship based on solely their ethnic background.' I suppose you could see it as that, and certainly some people do," Butko noted.

He foresees the events as generating discussion and intentionally mixing controversy with advocacy and education.

"It's going to be divisive, it has been divisive, but as we say, in a free society, effective speech is usually somewhat contentious."



SURVIVING GAZA Palestinian journalist Laila El-Haddad was on campus Monday to share her experiences in conjunction with Israeli Apartheid Week.

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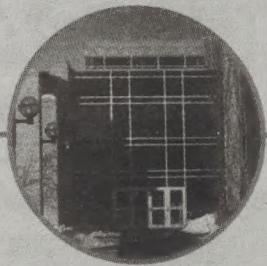
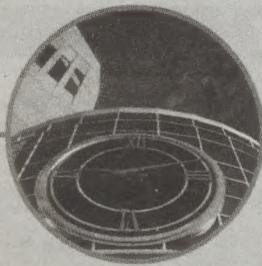
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NEWS BRIEF

NINT RESEARCHERS ACHIEVE FIRST STEP IN CREATING PLASTIC SOLAR PANELS

Researchers with the University of Alberta's National Institute for Nanotechnology (NINT) have made a huge advancement in their pursuit of developing a model for cheap and easily manufactured plastic solar panels.

The team consists of a group of ten individuals with backgrounds in everything from chemistry to engineering, all of whom were excited to announce an initial success in their efforts to develop a workable plastic solar cell.

"We're looking at ways of being able to make solar cells with much cheaper materials and in a way that is also much less expensive. You look around us and we're surrounded by plastics," explained Jillian Buriak, a chemistry professor at the U of A.

Unlike the silicon cells that are currently used in production, the plastic version will be available at a much lower cost, and this breakthrough on the project brings them one step closer to their goal.

"This is our first big result that we're really happy to talk about. We've actually been able to get the bottom layer—the shiny glass layer through which the sun will pass through—to be in very good contact with the first plastic polymer layer. That's led to increases in efficiency of about 30 per cent," Buriak said.

There are still three interfaces that need to be perfected, and the team estimates it'll be another five to seven years before the cell is ready for the market. While they remain realistic about the efficiency of silicon over plastic—which sits at approximately a 20 per cent gap—Buriak explained the replacing silicon was never their intention.

"I don't think these polymer solar cells will ever be as efficient, but the point is cost [...] That's where we think we can truly beat out silicon," she stated.

Buriak also pointed to the fact that research into projects like the plastic solar cell not only reflect well on NINT and the U of A, but also on the province as a whole.

"It's kind of important to get out the message to Alberta that in terms of energy, we're more than the oil sands. We're actually very interested in alternative energy."

—Kirsten Goruk, Deputy News Editor



WIRED NINT researchers show off the power of their plastic solar panel, which is undergoing testing.



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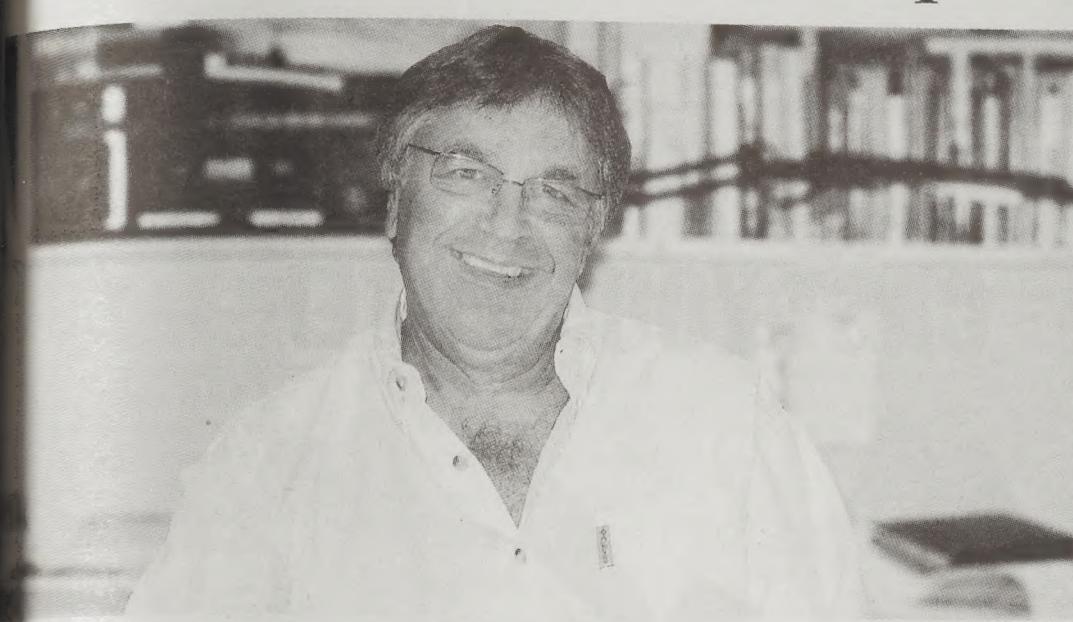
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U of A prof's book explores violent history of vehicles used as weapons



SUPPLIED

BLOOD ON ASPHALT Dr Peter Rothe's *Driven to Kill* explains how violent crimes are often connected to motor vehicles.

SEAN STEELES
Staff

in North American culture, automobiles have long stood as a ubiquitous emblem of freedom and independence, but for Dr. Peter Rothe, the sheen of this cultural icon can easily be scrubbed away to reveal a history deeply ingrained with violence.

As an associate professor with the Centre for Health Promotion Studies at the University of Alberta, Rothe explores the automobile's history as a tool of rape, murder, and revenge in his new book *Driven to Kill: Vehicles as Weapons*.

"My area of work for the last 20 years has been traffic safety and injury, but going through various studies, I recognized [that] there's a dimension of traffic that hasn't fully been analyzed: the criminality that often underlies it," Rothe said.

Driven to Kill explores this criminal element in stark detail through a host of studies and chilling first-hand accounts of the violent acts linked to or facilitated by motor vehicles.

"We find the very violent actions that go on in our communities—from murder to sexual assault, car-jacking, car theft, drive-by shootings, gang wars—these acts of violence, we can now observe, tend to be geared towards the use of motor vehicles in their execution," he remarked.

The reason behind the rampant use of motor vehicles in such events is easily explained, Rothe continued. The universal availability, low cost, and

efficiency of motored transportation makes it easy for criminals to acquire and exploit.

"When you look at situations like planned murder or suicide, the convenience and easy access of the tool used for the act plays a big role in its choice, statistically," he said.

The anonymity vehicles provide also plays an important role in enabling criminals and even law-abiding citizens to commit acts they otherwise wouldn't have the courage to.

"When you look at situations like planned murder or suicide, the convenience and easy access of the tool used for the act plays a big role in its choice, statistically."

DR PETER ROTHE
U OF A ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

"Just like with simple road rage, we can plan all kinds of intentional, violent acts around the vehicle, because there is this sense of not being discovered, not leaving a trail," he said. "It's quite easy to engage in violence and make an escape. There are millions of cars on the road."

But most importantly, with his book Rothe hopes to demonstrate how commonplace automobile violence has

become. Everyday occurrences such as road rage and intentional property destruction illustrate, for him, the profound connection between our automotive society and violent acts.

"This isn't just a concept out there. We don't know what goes through the heads of other drivers. This can happen to anyone at any time," Rothe warned.

Even the underlying structure of our roadways are conducive to violence. Objects dropped off overpasses kill 16 people in the United States every year; parkades are ideal sites for robbery and assault; workers in transportation are most commonly victimized, with taxi drivers being the most likely victims of homicide on the job, Rothe explained.

But despite the slew of negative light shed on the automobile and its history by *Driven to Kill*, Rothe hasn't set out to demonize motor vehicles. In fact, it's the fraught and complex relationship we have with our transportation that has forced him to look deeper to our own relationship with violence as an explanation.

"Social stress underlies so much of how we interact on the roadway, which leads to road rage and other violent acts in the same way that underlying economic stress can lead to car thefts," Rothe concluded.

"Whether the car is being used as a blunt instrument, a site for violence, or as a facilitator of violent acts, the features of what are going on in our society really underpin the intentional violence that gets played out in traffic."

FACRA board left short of representatives

CJSR • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At the same time, the station experienced the loss of their program manager Jay Hannley earlier this week.

According to Hannley, his reasons for leaving echo some of the sentiments of Papineau.

"I have just been with the station for a while, seven years as a paid employee, and feel, much like I feel about the station in general, that it is time to let go and let others take the reigns," he said in an email to the *Gateway*.

"I feel that I have seen through the changes I wanted to see through as an employee and will continue to contribute to the station by volunteering. The station has been an important part of my life for a long time and I care about it deeply enough that I know when it's time to let it go."

Hannley added.

While Hannley's departure wasn't expected by CJSR, Wilson doesn't think that there are any hard feelings.

"I think that he has some other opportunities that he's entertaining. We wish him the best because he's a beloved member of the CJSR community," he noted.

Wilson explained that Hannley's position opening up has allowed the station to re-evaluate their current organizational structure. The current system includes a head of programming and another head on the administrative side of operations.

"We think that what we'd like to do is move to a situation where one person has overall responsibility for the station. It's hard to be in a situation where there are two bosses," Wilson said. "We would kind of like to streamline that and have one

person who is the point of contact who is answerable to the board. We think that will result in a healthier situation overall."

In the meantime, Wilson has no concerns about the CJSR staff's ability to adjust to the current situation.

"We've got some capable staff here and CJSR is a place that is adept at dealing with difficult circumstances, so we have confidence that the remaining staff will be able to deal with any eventuality in the intervening period," he concluded.

With the sudden upheaval, the FACRA board is also left short of their typical eight representatives.

To combat the shortage, a call for nominations has been put out and an annual general meeting is scheduled for today. Those who are elected will serve until the spring, when a new board will be elected.

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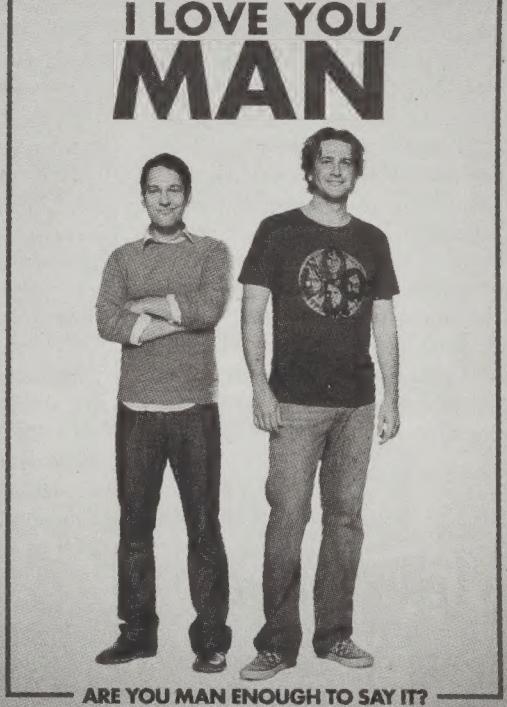
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OPINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 5 march, 2009

Recycled meds not fit for consumption

WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTH OF A NATION'S people, all citizens deserve access to medical assistance in a manner that promotes equality and is, above all else, safe. Recently, renowned Canadian physician Dr Jeff Turnbull—who currently serves as the Chief of Staff at the Ottawa Hospital and President-Elect of the Canadian Medical Association—began spearheading a controversial project that sees unused prescription drugs put into the hands of homeless people who are in need of them, but can't afford them. Along with Nova Scotian oncologist Dr Ron MacCormick, the pair are now taking this concept to provincial governments with the hopes that guidelines will be established as to how doctors can properly go about similar processes.

There's really no disputing that Turnbull's intentions are in the right place—by recycling medication that would simply be disposed of, he's trying to give those without health cards or health plans an opportunity to maintain some degree of care in a less-than-ideal societal circumstance. But what Turnbull appears to have glossed over in the midst of his idealistic heroics is that there are a number of things that can go seriously wrong if a system meant to distribute drugs isn't tightly regulated. Until provinces start getting on board with the idea of distributing recycled drugs to the homeless, Dr Turnbull should put his idea out of practice.

Need for regulation stems from the condition and the quality of the medication being trickled down to the homeless. One of the biggest concerns being raised is that the many of the drugs being supplied to those in need are past their shelf life and, therefore, are no longer useable. Though evidence in July 2006 from a US Food and Drug Administration study regarding expired medication revealed that some retained their potency anywhere from a year to 14 years past their expiration date, many experts still recommend that people not use them for fear of a greater risk of side effects, or simply because they will be ineffective in treating illness. The idea of giving throw-away pills to those who have already fallen victim to societal circumstance, rather than high-quality medication given to the general population, comes off as patronizing and doesn't really serve to help anyone if there is noticeable risk attached.

Even worse than expired medication is the idea of tampered drugs—ones that have been altered from their original state in an attempt to increase effectiveness—or even counterfeit drugs ending up being distributed to the homeless. Rather than simply disposing of medicine returned to pharmacies as is the usual protocol, the concern is that these drugs would be part of the ones handed down.

Currently, guidelines in the Ontario College of Pharmacists' Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act are supposed to prevent drugs that have been returned by a patient from being re-circulated back into the population because of the fact that they may have been tampered with. While Turnbull isn't in direct violation of this because the Act merely covers selling the medicine, he has blatantly disregarded the Act's intent in order to distribute these drugs in a seemingly careless manner.

In order for an idea like this to work and maintain the integrity of the medical officials involved, cooperative discussions need be held with Health Canada in regards to how a system of recycling drugs can be monitored for quality control, to ensure that the homeless aren't suffering any further health setbacks.

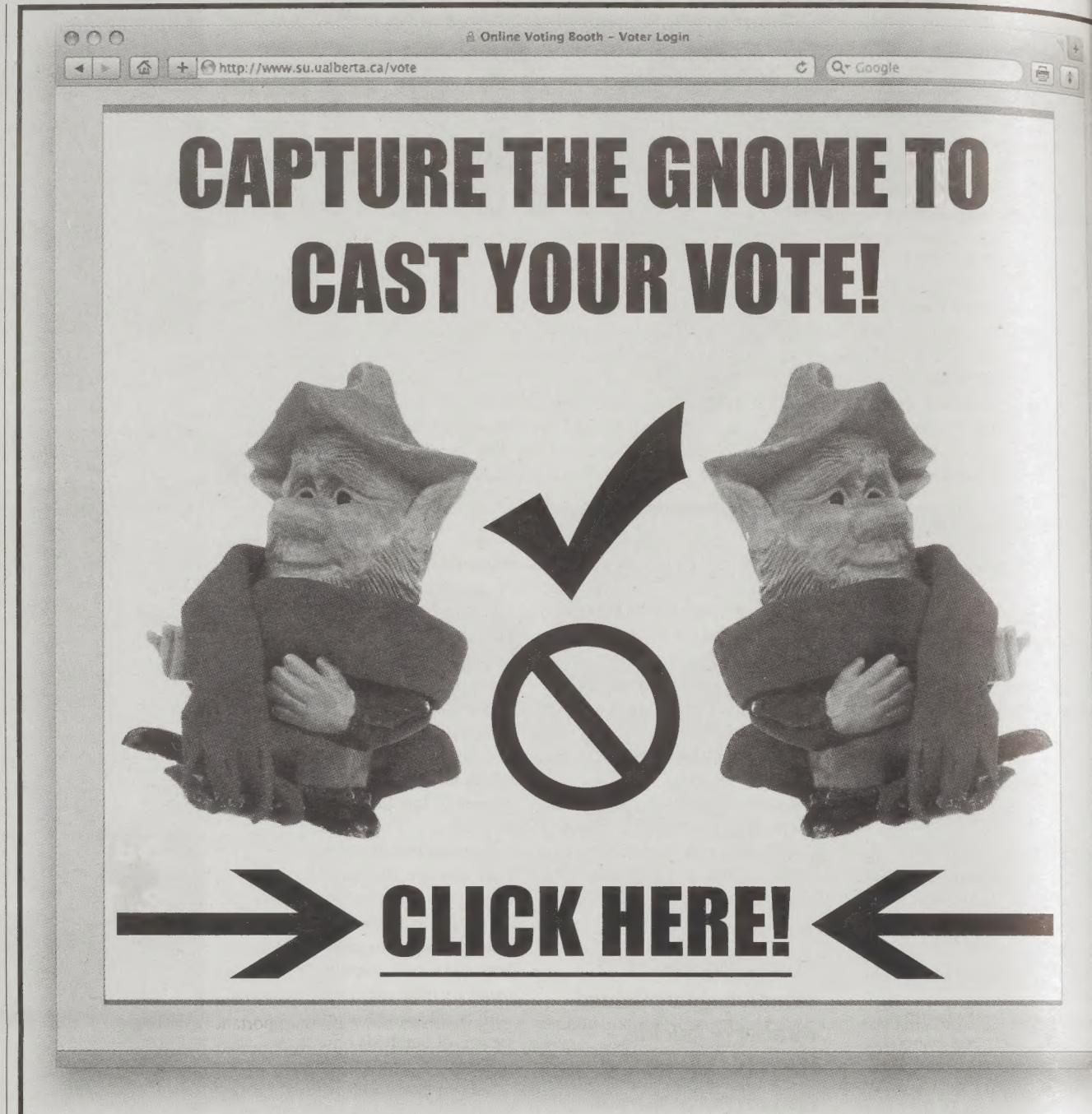
NICK FROST
Sports Editor

Forum frustration

THE MOST TELLING MOMENT OF THE HOROWITZ forum came during the Q&A portion, when the presidential candidates were asked "how many ethnic students they have as their friends." The serious candidates then took turns replying cooperatively with more eloquent variations on the standard "I have a black friend" racism defence.

The question was offensive, patronizing, irrelevant, and undeserving of a response. By answering it obediently, the candidates legitimized a pointless attempt to stir up racial conflict.

CODY CIVIERO
Opinion Editor



The SU finds innovative new ways to increase voter turnout

LUCAS WASSER

LETTERS

My big fat Greek rant

Beyond the often quoted "buying of friends" entailed with joining a Greek organization, there are a number of other pitfalls which are detrimental to those involved, and, by extension, the university itself.

Simply put, fraternities and sororities provide little that can't be found elsewhere on campus, without the extensive time commitments that I feel are the biggest problem with these groups.

While study hours are in place for certain underachieving students, the amount of time that must be committed on both weeknights and weekends is absolutely astounding. This takes away from precious study time in the name of social activities such as "mixers" or "exchanges." For a school trying to be one of the top in the world, this should be troubling.

A friend of mine in a sorority has spent four or five evenings during the week at the sorority house while having midterms on three of those days. It was not due to a lack of persistence on my friend's part that this occurred.

Rather, the sorority in question insists that homework and studying don't take precedence over sorority social events. Any organization that exercises such control over its members to make them forsake their education for social reasons is

troubling, but especially so given that it occurs under the protective wing of the University.

Sororities and fraternities are notoriously exclusive to those within that community, to the exclusion of friends outside of the realm of Greekdom.

Those not within this tight circle are often pushed aside to make way for their "brothers" and "sisters" (a term which I personally find incredibly misleading). Rather than reaching out to classmates and acquaintances, there is this sense of exclusivity and superiority in talking only to other sorority or frat members. These groups foster a sense of community, that can't be denied. But it comes at the cost of inclusion of the community-at-large on campus.

Of their philanthropic causes, I have really not seen any sign of this anywhere on campus. Enough said.

Although drinking and substance abuse is supposedly banned, it doesn't take long for one to arrive at a Greek party before you see alcohol and drugs being passed around. These groups have violated numerous alcohol policies on campus, but the University seems too sheepish to apply any sort of pressure on these groups.

These organizations have been stereotyped in our culture, and in most cases, unfairly so. But I believe the large number of campuses across North America which have formally banned them (Harvard and Queen's University come to mind)

gives precedent for the University of Alberta to do the same.

ERIC VAN AERDE
Arts II

You don't know the SU

There was an error in the picture caption on page 6 (re: "SU Presidential candidates detail their vision for 2009/10," 26 February). The caption incorrectly matches the names of Kory Mathewson and Craig Turner to their pictures. This could potentially be misleading to any voters in the current SU election.

ERIC FATH-COLMES
Via Email

You don't know sports

With regards to your mention of the track and field team (re: "Sports shorts," 3 March), there is no such thing as a 100m dash in indoor track and field. Alana Soderberg won bronze in the 1000m, not the 100m race. As well, Paula Findlay earned herself a gold medal in the 3000m not the 300m race. One more zero in both cases and you would have had it right.

AMANDA SCHNECK
Engineering III

You don't know games

I just thought I should point out a very

important correction to Mr Ostap's article (re: "Capcom unleashes winner in Street Fighter 4," 3 March) about the new Street Fighter 4 game. Tekken, actually, is the single best fighting game ever made.

VICKY VU
Pharmacy

The Boa fails to sting

Oh "The Boa". Referring to Pierce as a moron (re: "Techno misconduct," 3 March) is like referring to your sister as a call girl. You just don't do something like that. This dead ringer for John Lennon has given us some of the most insightful and most entertaining commentary in the Gateway.

IVAN POUKHOVSKI-SHEREMET
Alumni

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca with attachments, please.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of a letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

Virtual vote is a huge cock block

Digital ballot robs us of our most basic human right—the ability to draw dicks

CONAL
PIERSE



My friends, we have been robbed—nay, stripped—of our democratic freedoms. With the switch to the heartlessly efficient online voting system has come the death of the paper ballot, which is perhaps the greatest and most necessary tool the general public has at their disposal.

This innocuous piece of paper is so much more than a flimsy representation of choice. Perhaps most importantly, it stands as a physical testament of our choice—a democratic cockroach whose weight can't be knocked out by someone drunkenly driving into a transformer or an apocalyptic meltdown.

By voting online, we surrender ourselves to the will of an almighty machine, removing the human element in favour of efficiency. Should we deny an individual access to the crippling boredom of vote counting simply for the sake of accuracy? I say no.

It may have been idiot-proofed, but it's also choice proof. Whereas before the ballot served as an unspoiled canvas for political ideation, what remains now is static. Aside from the basic selection of unclicked circles, there's nothing you can do but vote. And that's disgraceful. Before, you could write in a candidates' name, demanding that they be given a fair

shot regardless of their reluctance to run or lack of basis in the physical world—a guy who can turn water into wine would solve all of the Power Plant's long-standing problems.

But most importantly, the ballot is perhaps the last bastion of political dissent—or at least the last one that anyone is required to pay attention to.

Whereas before the ballot served as an unspoiled canvas for political ideation, what remains now is static. Aside from the basic selection of unclicked circles, there's nothing you can do but vote. And that's disgraceful.

While someone who doesn't vote can easily be confused as lazy, nobody misconstrues the intent of the man who eats his ballot in a sign of defiance. Though it would be a good idea to check such people for malnutrition; it's become increasingly harder to separate protesters from the legitimate crazies. Likewise, setting a ballot aflame has the twofold purpose of displaying malcontent and being majestically dangerous—like a unicorn, or an eagle smoking.

Whether you fundamentally disagree with a candidate's platform, or you really just hate their whiney voice, nothing conveys your displeasure better than a well-spoiled

ballot. Sure, you could refrain from voting, or throw support behind none of the above, but in doing so, your protest is lost amidst a sea of meaningless statistics—a drowning man, clutching at straws in the middle of an ocean of noise. Well, my friends, I say hand that man a lifeline in the form of a hastily drawn, angry cock.

Call it what you will, but these are much more than childish scrawlings. They are proud obelisks of freedom, standing tall and firm in the face of adversity. It's a sign that your message will not be softened. A symbol that penetrates to the very root of the issue: I am a mature voter who is displeased with the current slate of candidates.

While others attempt to show this in misguided fashions—such as a doodle of Batman uppercutting a candidate, or lady liberty openly weeping—the phallus is the high-brow approach. It shows how each candidate's choice to run was a colossal boner, while simultaneously cutting directly to the inevitable Freudian undertone of all art.

So my friends, I urge you: don't simply accept the online voting system that has been forced upon us. When you go to vote, don't just do it from your bedroom while absent-mindedly eating a grilled cheese sandwich.

Approach the problem with dignity and poise; walk proudly to the polling station, confidently hand the poll clerks your lovingly illustrated dicks of defiance, and contribute once again to those most important of election statistics: the unreported ones.

In order to really get out the vote, us old fogies have got to make apathy fearsome

PAUL
KNOECHEL



"Now, I know that this may seem like a final 'fuck you' to everyone who's more youthful than me, or perhaps it's just a bitter send-off to the realm of student politics. Maybe I'm just a jerkbag who hasn't gotten laid in a while and I'm trying to spread some misery. No, I assure you, there's a method to my madness."

attitude that anyone younger than me is an idiot. I'm not bitter about student politics. I think that those crazy bastards that control millions of dollars because they got 37 of their friends to stir up a couple hundred votes for them, despite the fact that they've never handled a budget over two grand, are doing a completely passable job most of the time, occasionally sucking and sometimes excelling. And despite being a jerkbag, thanks to my hygiene, chivalry, and speed in the sack, hookers are dirt cheap for me, so I'm not too mad with the world. No, I'm going to try and fuck up this last student election I'll be privy to for one simple reason.

You should get offended by my actions. You should get pissed off. I've just told you that I'm going to cheapen a fundamental process on which all of our lives are built; an almost revered system that gives a voice to every man and woman in the entire country.

This should affect you in a very deep way, and you should feel reinvigorated in the democratic process and go and get to those booths so that my dissenting and cockass antics

don't ruin it for everyone else. If you don't get at least a little upset, then you should really re-evaluate some things in your life, and maybe move to Russia. The point is that it doesn't matter two flying monkeys who the next SU electorate is going to be for me: I'm gone.

It does matter for you, and if you're gripped with indifference, please take my douche-baggery as a launching point to get updated on who you're voting on (it takes 20 minutes, seriously) and actually do something about selecting the people who—like it or not—are going to represent your voice as an undergraduate student for another twelve months. And believe me when I say, as an undergrad, that you need every voice you can gather behind you if your point of view is going to be considered for even a moment.

So go out and vote. Give this sixth-year on-and-off university student one less thing to be jaded about, even as I go out and vote for the obvious worst choices or "none of the above" options on this year's ballot. Hey, it doesn't matter a fuck to me, but it still should for you.

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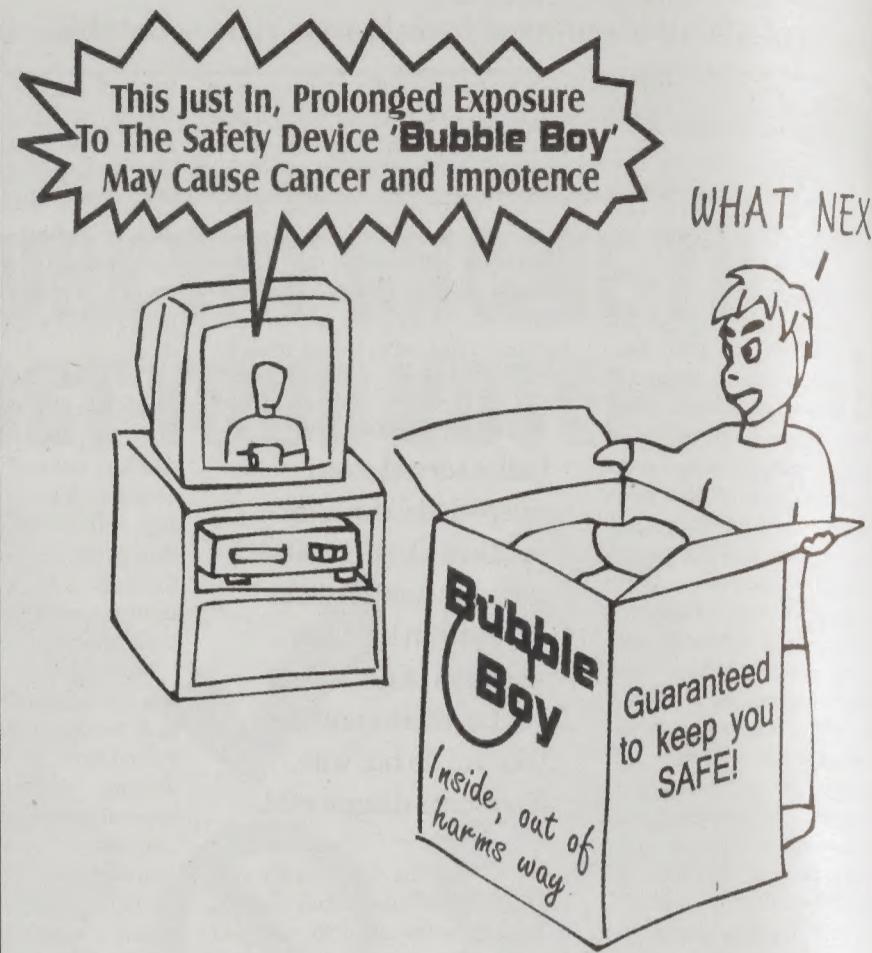
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CODY
CIVIERO

make up for a lifetime of disability payments sustain an unproductive, meaningless existence. I'm still on the fence about that.

Part of me can't help but theorize, based on my previously mentioned paranoid tendencies, that a shady group of mad doctors with more education than ethics are systematically spreading health-related fear in order to induce widespread psychosomatic illness and, in turn, increase their revenue from diagnosis and treatment. The Hippocratic Oath isn't mandatory any more, you know.

Everything is fatally bad for you. Absolutely everything that your college-educated mind could conceive. Especially the things that you grew up being told were enlightening for your mind and body.

I've garnered a reputation amongst those who know me for being a paranoid, and maybe it's well-deserved. I still stand by my repeated warnings that the government is out to get us, I believe that cable television is a subtle but calculated apathy and stupidity-inducing mind-control device, and I sleep with a sturdy five iron underneath my bed.

But there's a reason for my omnipresent attitude of mistrust, besides the repeated mugging attempts against me over the past year. I'm relatively well-informed. I follow the *Edmonton Journal*, the BBC, the *National Post*, the *Globe and Mail*, and the *CBC*. And as a result, I feel that I can rationalize a constant state of acute neuroticism. It's an occupational hazard, I guess. But the articles that have historically kept me up the longest at night aren't the ones involving our fair city's rampant crime, global political corruption, or even the stock pages—they're the pieces that fill out the Health sections.

Everything is fatally bad for you. Absolutely everything that your college-educated mind could conceive. Especially the things that you grew up being told were enlightening for your mind and body. A recent BBC feature laid out in lengthy depth how breast cancer screenings lead to misdiagnoses and subsequent perils of unnecessary surgery. Similarly, recent evidence suggests that a glass of wine a day gives women cancer. The medical jury is still debating the benefits of milk, eggs, and fresh air, among everything else fit for consumption.

To top all of these disconcerting bothers off, unhappy children are apparently more likely to grow up permanently sick or disabled. Well, that's just my luck. I thought that some hard work and education might turn things around, but apparently it's all downhill from here, and I don't have much of a view to begin with. On the plus side, my polemics towards television have been vindicated by findings that infants' viewing has been linked to increased risk of obesity, attention problems, and poor sleep quality. But being proven right might not

But back to health news: it seems that everything kills you and the only real question left regard what kills you the slowest. Life is a reverse race, after all. The only two sane choices that immediately follow are hypochondria and denial, and I'm anything but an optimist.

But I've recently decided that this may be one of the few things not worth flipping out over. Perhaps Socrates' most well-known concept is that the only thing that we can be certain of is our own ignorance. Applying the same principles to your physical deficiencies, be aware of the fact that we are, pound-for-pound and inch-for-inch, one of the most pathetically weak collections of cells on the planet. And based on that, we should all be cautious while accepting our own mortality.

There are some basic ways to stay relatively healthy—abstain from smoking, work out every now and then, and follow a decent diet. But these constant little nitpicks about anything and everything one does with their body serve no purpose other than aforementioned pain.

A fun life is preferable to a slightly longer one dedicated solely to extending itself. Well, now that that's out of my mind, I'd go back to worrying about axe murderers and g-men. Forget about the effects of wine; the cancer is other people.



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Racism isn't just monkey business

ISHMAEL N
DARO



CUP, The Sheaf

Travis the chimpanzee, who savagely attacked a woman in Connecticut, has made himself a posthumous celebrity. Having once starred in an Old Navy commercial, the 200-pound primate hadn't been seen publicly until his attack sent someone to the hospital with grievous injuries. Travis was eventually shot and killed by police who arrived on scene. However, before the dust had settled on his outburst, controversy had already erupted.

The New York Post ran an editorial cartoon on 18 February depicting two police officers standing over a bullet-riddled ape while commenting that "they'll have to find someone else to write the next stimulus bill."

The cartoon sparked almost immediate outrage from New Yorkers including Al Sharpton, who decried it racist to compare President Obama to a monkey. Meanwhile, Col Allan, the editor-in-chief, insisted that the cartoon was aimed at the recent economic legislation and the government as a whole, not the president. He has since issued a qualified apology to people who misunderstood the cartoon as veiled racism. However, he maintained that for other people who were exploiting the situation to attack the conservative paper, "no apology is due."

One could argue that the cartoonist Sean Delonas did indeed mean to

target the economic stimulus bill, but the monkey comparison is so potent, he would need to be an imbecile not to know its power.

Depicting black people as monkeys is not a new phenomenon. The relation is meant to suggest black people are somehow subhuman or uncivilized. Particularly after the American Civil War, propagandists tried to establish that the newly freed slaves were not as human as whites and therefore not worthy of having the same rights.

The relation is meant to suggest black people are somehow subhuman or uncivilized.

During slavery, black people were depicted as simple, childlike, groveling, and generally harmless in order to justify control over them. However, once they were freed, the caricature turned into the violent, animalistic brute that has sustained to present day.

In 1867, Reverend Buckner H Payne published *The Negro: What Is His Ethnological Status?* and concluded that since black people weren't descendants of Adam and Eve, they only gained passage onto Noah's Ark as "beasts" and not as fellow humans. More specifically, Payne suggested that one can "take up the monkey, and trace him [...] up to the Negro."

This post-war depiction of black people as monkeys proved very influential. In 1900, Charles Carroll wrote the book *The Negro is a Beast*, which made the connection much clearer: "If

the White was created 'in the image of God,' then the Negro was made after some other model. And a glance at the Negro indicates the model; his very appearance suggests the ape."

Racists have maintained that depiction of black people since then. As recently as the 2008 presidential campaign, T-shirts and stuffed animals depicting Obama as a monkey were available. At a rally for Republican Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin, a man taped an Obama sticker to a monkey doll and displayed it proudly.

To be fair to Delonas, the cartoon says someone else will have to "write" the next stimulus bill. American presidents don't write bills; they only sign them into law after Congress writes them. But for a piece of legislation that Obama has been championing for months, it's impossible for the president not to be implicated. Now that the story has exploded, many people have commented on news sites to denounce the cartoon, while some have defended it on the grounds of free speech.

After Obama's election, many people talked about living in a post-racial world, but this hasn't happened. If racism is on the decline, it should be okay for a cartoonist to compare Obama to a monkey, just as many cartoonists depicted former US president George Bush as one.

Either way, as the so-called post-racial era continues, one can only hope that future readers will not even think of race when reading cartoons about monkeys. One comment on the website of the London Times seemed to be there already: "This cartoon is an insult to monkeys who played no part in drafting the stimulus bill."

Online voting isn't a cure for SU apathy

DANIELLE
WEBB



CUP, The Xavieran

As students head into their annual electoral exercise, choosing who will be their representatives for the next year, the word on the tip of everyone's lips is "turnout."

In the hopes of boosting voter participation, the latest tactic of elected representatives hasn't been to boost engagement or make students care more about the election. Instead, they have chosen to jeopardize the very legitimacy of the vote and its result by bringing the polling stations into the bedrooms of every student.

Online voting is a relatively new technology that has evolved greatly since the days of online polls for People Magazine about Paris Hilton's new puppy. But students' unions across the country are now harnessing that same online technology for their own elections. At more and more campuses across the country, students will no longer make their mark on a piece of paper, but click their mouse on a screen. And each of those unions should be ashamed of themselves.

The purpose of an election is to elect new representatives of the people to student government where their concerns will be addressed. To fail to engage that populace with issues that matter to them—to fail to reach out to students and make them believe in each candidate's abilities to work for them—causes voter turnout to drop.

"Online voting is a temporary fix for an issue that has yet to be fully addressed by any Canadian students' union. It's like a Band-Aid on a bullet wound, and student bodies are losing blood faster than their elected leaders can figure out why, let alone before they can try and stop it."

For the past few years, unions across the country have been struggling with low turnout and now they're throwing in the towel one after the other. They've begun appealing to each student's laziness, rather than their sense of democratic duty.

Just because a certain percentage of students are easily convinced to log on to a website and click to vote one day of the year doesn't mean that they are active participants in their union year-round. The challenge students' union executives from coast to coast now face is finding a way of extending that day of engagement to the rest of the year.

If students can't believe in the effectiveness of their ballot to extend beyond voting day, online results will eventually begin to dwindle just like their paper counterparts.

Putting the vote online for an Internet-savvy audience is akin to drawing pictures with crayons for the local preschool kids when asking them what kind of snack they want after their nap. Just because you address something in terms your constituents will understand doesn't mean that you're reaching them, even if a lot of them happen to respond. Students are smart; sooner or later they'll realize that their students' unions are still ignoring them, but in a seemingly more accessible package.

Online voting is a temporary fix for an issue that has yet to be fully addressed by any Canadian students'

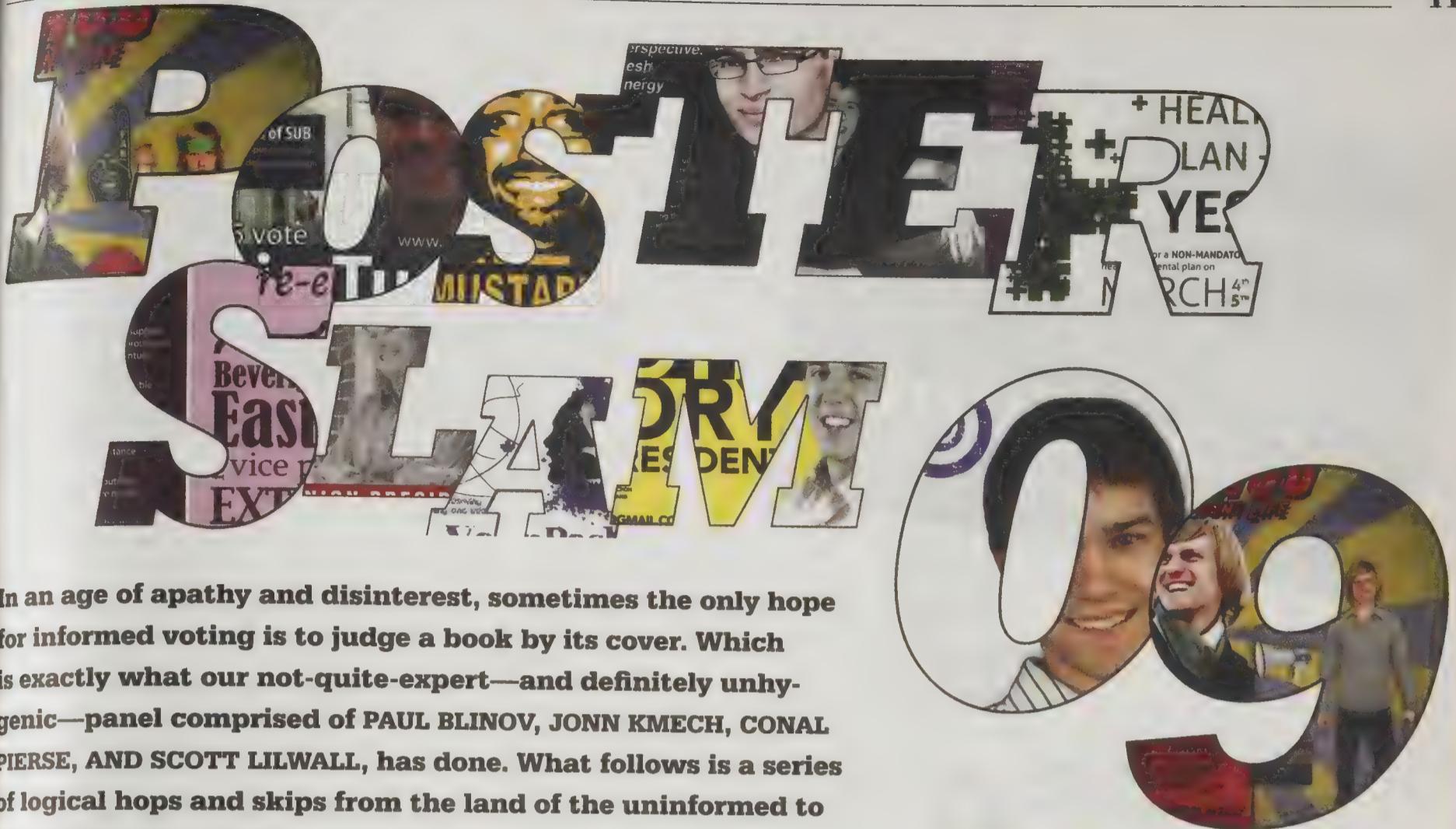
union. It's like a Band-Aid on a bullet wound, and student bodies are losing blood faster than their elected leaders can figure out why, let alone before they can try and stop it.

When the electorate can no longer see the legitimacy of the election, engagement drops. Our democratic system relies on far more than role-playing democracy; it relies on the image of democracy being carried out. When we rest our faith on a simple click of a mouse, where will our faith lie?

If our elected representatives are truly concerned about boosting voter turnout, then perhaps they should focus their energies first on representing students' concerns—unfinished protests, residence misconduct, and sky-rocketing student fees, to name a few—rather than their own legacy of record-breaking voter turnout.

Being a member of a students' union executive is a thankless job, it's true. Hours of dedicated work are often accomplished with little recognition or lots of criticism. But just as voter engagement relies on the image of an active democracy, so does the image of democracy rely on elected officials who follow through on promises and set realizable goals. Voters have an extraordinarily low tolerance for elected officials who think of their own legacy before those who put them in office.

You want high turnout? Think of the people, and they'll think of you.



In an age of apathy and disinterest, sometimes the only hope for informed voting is to judge a book by its cover. Which is exactly what our not-quite-expert—and definitely unhygienic—panel comprised of PAUL BLINOV, JONN KMECH, CONAL PIERSE, AND SCOTT LILWALL, has done. What follows is a series of logical hops and skips from the land of the uninformed to that of the damn near unfathomable.

PRESIDENT

Kory Mathewson

Conal: First up we've got Mr Kory Matheson in the presidential race.

Scott: That is a whole bunch of yellow. Jesus. Did I miss something about the whole one colour, black, and then a black-and-white picture? Because that's what's been going on for four years.

Conal: It's the Pleasantville motif.

Jonn: He's Toby Maguire, except for he could never be Spiderman.

Paul: He's sticking to the bee colours.

Conal: You can tell that he's going for that theme, what with the floral pattern on his collar.

Paul: It's subtle, but it's there. Ever-present like his gaze. No seriously, if you move, he follows you.

Conal: You just get lost in his eyes.

Paul: That's the kind of president I want.

Conal: The kind of president who, when he starts giving a speech, you don't even care what he's saying; you're just looking into his eyes dreamily.

Paul: Everything would fade to yellow and black and he would turn black and white, and you would just stare at him like freeze frames.

Conal: Although his teeth are unnaturally white here. It's shocking—they're whiter than his white shirt.

Paul: Do you think that's Photoshop?

Jonn: No, it's Crest Dentstrips.

Conal: There's not much for platform on his poster either. He says three things he's going to go for, but he doesn't really care about anything other than the fact that you should vote for him.

Paul: Well, he knows what he wants.

Jonn: Voting for him is the most important part of his platform. That and bees. I can appreciate an SU President that has a hive mind.

Paul: I can too, although we'd all appreciate it because, y'know, it's a hive mind.

Conal: Though I can't appreciate an SU President who runs things like a bee hive, because then it's all work and no mating.

Paul: Except for Kory. He gets to get with everyone.

Scott: "Vote Kory" I will join that Facebook group. He doesn't even ask me to, he didn't say "hey, think about it," he said "join it."

Conal: That's the major difference between Kory and our next candidate Jesse Hahn, who asks that we "please vote."

Jesse Hahn

Paul: Has anyone noticed all the pro-Jesse graffiti that's been on his posters across campus—like "He's Hahn-est?" All the worst puns you can think of.

Conal: Jesse Hahn's guerilla street team are just the worst.

Paul: They're gorillas—trained gorillas with markers. Which is an impressive feat to accomplish on a \$500 budget.

Jonn: Wait, is that gorilla or guerilla?

Paul: I meant the apes.

Conal: He kind of is our Jane Goodall, what with his flowing blonde locks.

Paul: Someone explain to me this "meeting the needs of the whole student."

Conal: Other people don't really care about the whole student, they just want your hearts and minds. Jesse's about everything—he's about your torso, your legs, even your appendix.

Paul: Your crippling loneliness?

Conal: Exactly. He'll take it all.

Jonn: Hahn's face just screams saucy-boy.

Paul: It also screams step-dad.

Conal: That's what it is about him: he's the step-dad. You just don't know if you're ready to love him yet. He's moved in with your mom, and he calls you champ.

Paul: And he's always grinning like this when he comes into your room.

Conal: And he doesn't get the kind of gifts you want. He thinks you're into baseball, he doesn't understand why you play video games all the time. He's always encouraging you to do everything you hate.

Paul: If Kory's the queen bee, then Jesse's the step-dad who starts dating her.

Conal: He's the bee who moves into the hive and makes all the other bees uncomfortable.

Scott: The slightly magenta, and then the brick wall, makes it seem like a 1980s music video.

Paul: Or like winter in a toxic wasteland.

Conal: I'm getting the '80s vibe too. He's going to draw you into the page, and then you're going to get chased by crazy racecar drivers with pipe wrenches.

Conal: One thing I'm not entirely sure about him is his attempts to reduce our transit costs by increasing options. I just don't know how he can accomplish that. What's he going to do, bring back the horse and carriage?

Paul: I'm a fan of the late-night rickshaw, I'm not gonna lie. It could even be an extension of SafeWalk—SafeShaw.

Jonn: One word: Segways. Either that or motorized walkways to classes.

Conal: If we had those kinds of options I'd just break my legs, because I don't need them anymore.

Paul: Perhaps the jetpack?

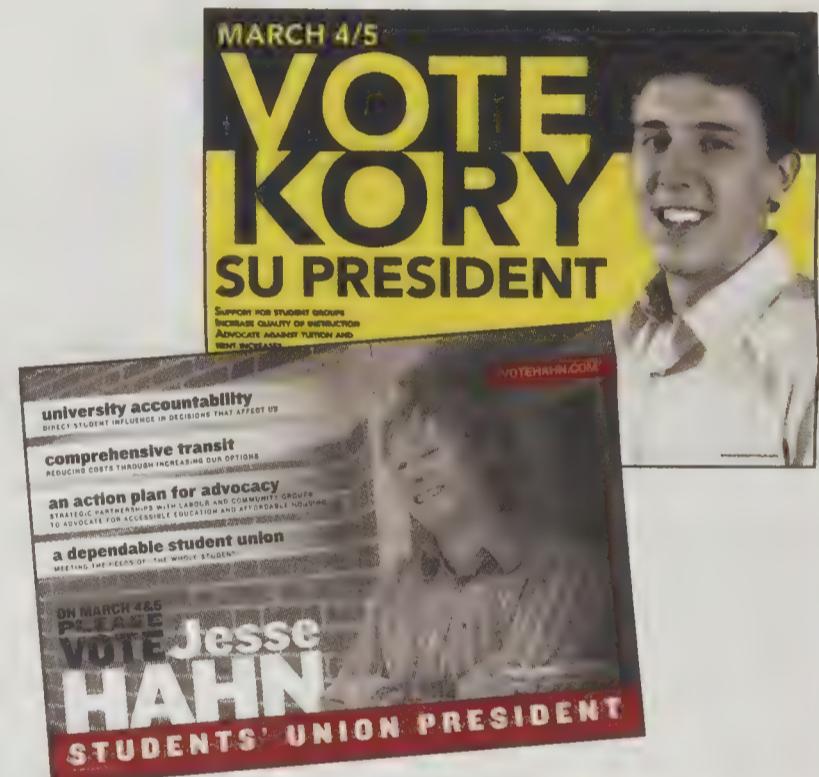
Mustapha Mahkdom

Conal: The problem with his pixelated posters is that it looks like a Rorschach blot made with puke. Someone threw up on cardboard and then asked, "what do you see?" I guess I see a guy running for SU President.

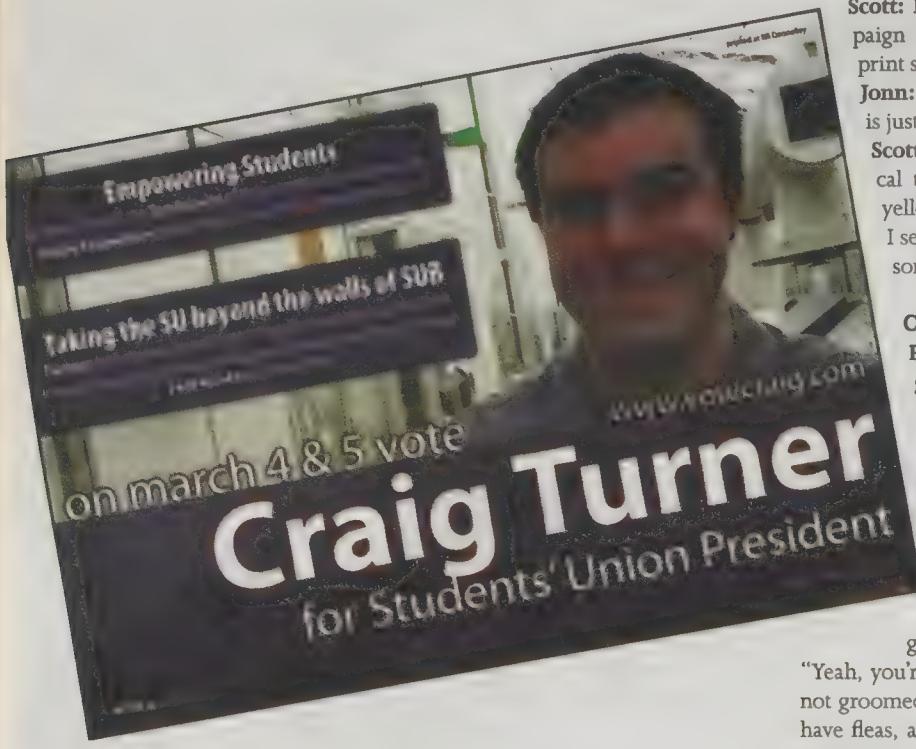
Jonn: I'm pretty sure that the poster that didn't get made was just a green and yellow photocopy of his ass.

Conal: It looks like a fat guy in camouflage.

Paul: Or just a crazy, old, bat lady.



"That's what it is about Hahn: he's the step-dad. You just don't know if you're ready to love him yet. He's moved in with your mom, and he calls you champ."



Scott: Perhaps part of his campaign was better training for print shop staff.

Jonn: Or maybe his heat vision is just malfunctioning.

Scott: Maybe it's a psychological thing, but that colour of yellow plus his name and all I see is "mustard." And that's something I would vote for.

Craig Turner

Paul: Look at that boyish grin.

Jonn: He looks like a puppy dog, and there's a carrot hanging in front of the camera.

Conal: He reminds me of the dogs in the window of a pet store that you know aren't going to get picked up.

"Yeah, you're kind of cute, but you're not groomed well enough, you might have fleas, and that dog over there is biting the other dog's penis, and that's just adorable."

Paul: The juxtaposition of taking things past SUB and the picture being in HUB doesn't bode well.

Jonn: We're taking things straight to HUB!

Conal: That's where he lives, and that's where he gets his food.

Paul: The delicious orange chicken.

Scott: It looks like he's standing in a steam tunnel from something like Half-Life 2. Really? Ducts?

Conal: He's the guy who you run into and he gives you a bit of information, and then he dies. A tentacle is going to shoot out of that duct and tear him to pieces.

Paul: Also, executive kiosks, would they involve a dunk tank?

Jonn: How else can you increase dialogue?

Scott: That's change you can believe in.

Jonn: And one hell of a platform.

Paul: A platform that falls.

"VannPashak one reminds me of an Evanescence song. This is my least favourite poster of the whole campaign, because of this snowed-in feel and the Amy Lee font. This is my junior high put onto a poster."

Jonn: To be fair, the poster's competent.

Scott: Which puts it above most standard SU posters.

Paul: And he's definitely the candidate that I feel safest bringing home to mom.

Conal: Mustapha would jump on the table and start flinging mashed potatoes into the light fixtures.

Scott: And then he'd make my dad's dick limp. And that always is the worst Christmas.

Conal: If the presidential candidates were ice cream, Craig would definitely be vanilla.

Paul: I'd say he's neopolitan sans the chocolate. Everyone ate around his flavour. Kory would be tiger stripe—you're curious enough to buy it, but you're not sure if it was the right choice. Jesse Hahn is bubble-

gum, because it reminds you of lost innocence.

Scott: Mustapha is like when people put gummy worms and all all other kinds of crazy crap in their ice cream.

Conal: He's the sundae a child makes at a buffet. There's gravy, and chocolate, and hot dogs—it's both dinner and dessert. And you never get to eat it, because your mother sees it and takes it away from you once you sit down.

Paul: And you hate her then, but respect her decision now.

"Murphy put himself in colour, but he almost should've left himself in black and white. He is pale like a vampire."

VICE PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL)

Aden Murphy

Paul: Aden Murphy is a Slytherin, pure and simple, in his sly gaze and wry smile.

Scott: It's dark green lettering on black.

Conal: He put himself in colour, but he almost should've left himself in black and white. He is pale like a vampire

Scott: Also the fact that he's wearing a black shirt, and he's got black hair, black glasses ...

Paul: "Engaging you in better advocacy." I like the fact that he wants to propose, but I don't think I'm ready. It's very traditional. It's a very traditional poster.

Scott: He should've asked your step-dad's permission.

Paul: For students, he wants to make campaign more student driven.

Conal: That means he doesn't want to do any work. He's like, "If elected to office, you're gonna do my job!"

Scott: All my projects were always partner-driven. Same kinda deal.

Conal: You were that partner. You were the Aden Murphy of your group, the guy who just sat there asking "when are we having a project meeting?" playing on your fuckin' Game Boy the entire time.

Paul: He's the guy who asks "who wants to type up the report?" but never does it himself.

Paul: "Reaching out to Rural Alberta." Is that what we need? "Lobby the small town opinion-makers who shape government."

Conal: Like, Old McDonald going out to his farm, and he's gonna influence our policy?

Paul: Fee-I-Eee-I-Oh shit. I can understand what he's trying to get at with that. But Farmer John isn't going to show up to Restricted Access.

Scott: They don't give a shit.

Conal: Whenever it's a time of drought, do you think they're really going to care about our tuition problems? He's facing not having enough food to get through the next season. The crops are dying, the hailstorms have just killed all of his wheat, and Aden's like "our tuition's too high."

Scott: Just like when it's a really bad year for canola, I don't give a crap.

Conal: Rural Alberta and most students are two populations who don't give a shit about each other.

Scott: I went to university because I couldn't cut it in rural Alberta. I have weak baby hands.

Conal: They didn't support you then and they won't support you now. If you can't till a field, they don't care.

Paul: If he's gonna be running for VPX, I expect a certain amount of X-treme involved, and there is nothing in this poster that is vaguely extreme.

Conal: Fresh perspective, fresh energy, bland as hell. Any of those five points

has been found on Bev Eastham's poster.

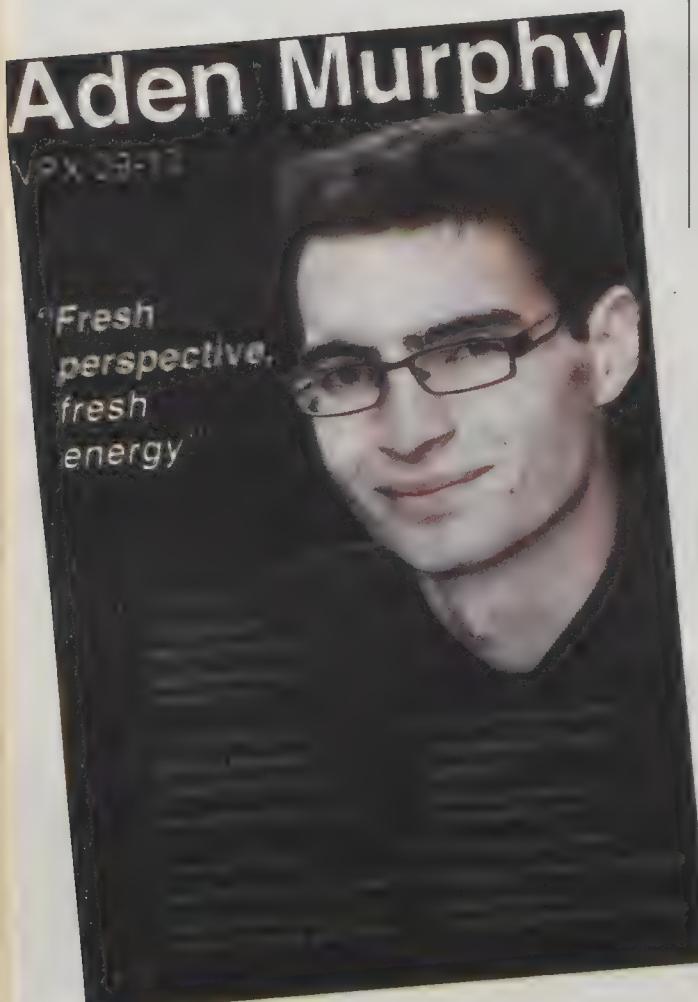
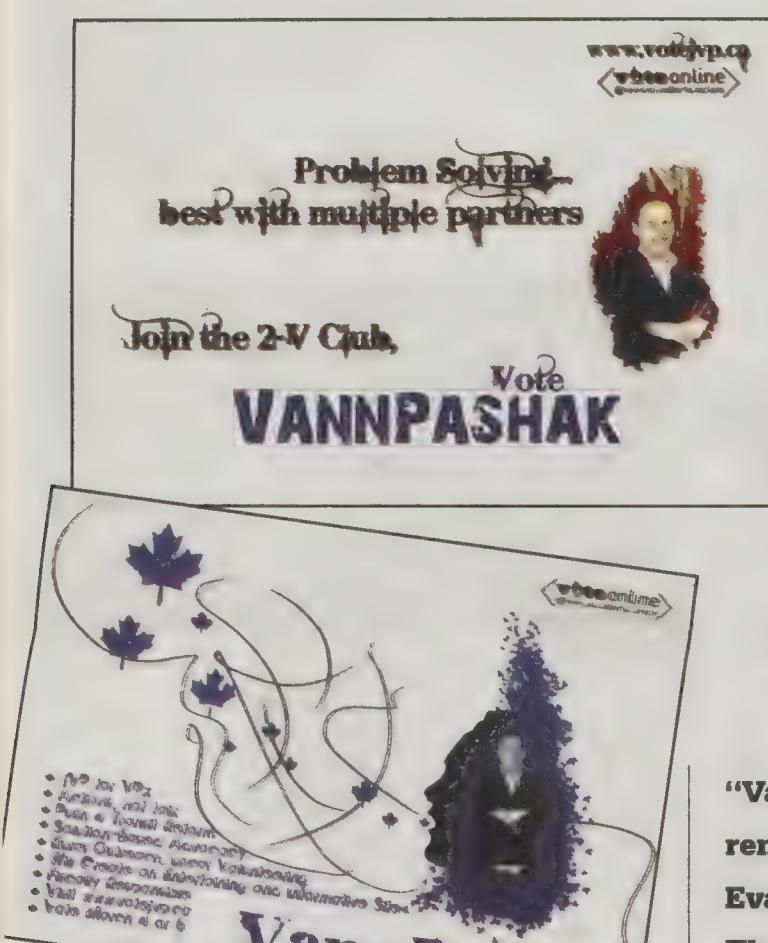
Beverly Eastham

Paul: Bland, bland, bland.

Conal: This really seems like an ad for breast cancer.

Scott: With this, I get the feeling that Bev Eastham really wanted to be my Valentine

Conal: Or at least your Internet mail-order bride.



Scott: Once again, two-tone colour, black and white picture. Does the print shop have a special on this?

Conal: My big problem with her is that she plans on improving calculations, because she wasn't quite doing them right this year. This year she fucked up the budget by not carrying several important ones. But "if you bring me in next year, I will improve calculations."

Paul: She'll buy a TI-92, or whatever the latest calculator is.

Conal: That's going to be the first thing: They'll get rid of the abacus, and they'll get a TI-92.

Paul: Out of the three VPX candidates, this is my favourite poster.

Scott: It's just like Craig Turner's

Paul: It doesn't disappoint me, it just doesn't impress me.

Scott: A solid B-.

Conal: I don't understand the non-repayable assistance. Is that like, she's going to do a favour for you, and then she'll come to you in a time of her need, and you have to do a favour for her?

Paul: It's pay it forward, but enforced by the student government

Jonn: What I don't understand is anything about "repayable assistance."

Scott: Because repayable assistance is way less awesome.

Conal: I don't like being a mooch

Scott: I love being a mooch! That's why I became a student!

Jonn: She wants to collaborate with lobby groups and other executives to further important initiatives.

Conal: It's that kind of phrasing where it seems like English until you think about it.

Scott: And then it seems like something a robot would've said. A robot who really likes pink and purple

Conal: Well, having a robot would definitely improve calculations

Scott: Also, if the robot was large enough, you could live in it. That's affordable housing.

Conal: Or you could just get the robot to kill all the people in the affordable housing. That frees up a lot of cheap rent.

Scott: More poster.

Justin VannPashak

Paul: This one reminds me of an Evanescence song. This is my least favourite poster of the whole campaign, because of this snowed-in feel and the Amy Lee font.

Conal: This is my junior high put onto a poster.

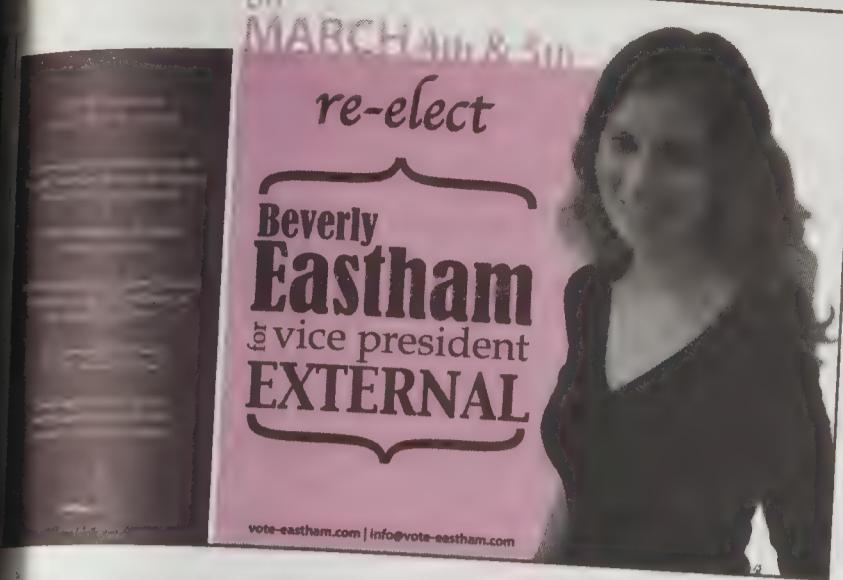
Paul: He's encaptured in an ice flame

Jonn: I thought it looked more like a locust cloud

Conal: I like the silhouette of his face where he's breathing softly into the wind. It looks like he's combining graffiti style art with a Calvin Klein ad.

Paul: With a hint of avant-garde.

Paul: I dislike his use of the number "4" in "support 4 transit reform"



Conal: He actually has four separate transit reforms going through. The first will be late night transit, just to get him on board. The second: removing all the chairs. Third: Monkey operators. Fourth: Take away late night transit again, because monkeys get violent at night.

Scott: What's with the hard-on for rural outreach?

Conal: What's so bad about our city—aside from a lot of obvious things—that they are getting the fuck out to rural Alberta?

Paul: I'm glad his advocacy has solutions in mind.

Conal: I really hate people who don't have solutions-based advocacy. What's the point to that?

Paul: Solid or gaseous advocacy just doesn't fly these days.

John: I'd rather vote for someone who's campaigning on problems-based advocacy, because I want someone to create more problems.

Scott: Hey! We wanna lower tuition! Let's start a fire!

John: Or he inspires students to start overturning cars.

Paul: I just don't understand how this poster happened.

Conal: The way it happened is because his last initials are VP, and he figured that that's as good as reason as any to run for a vice presidential position.

John: He not only wants rural outreach, he wants local volunteering.

Conal: He's going to go to the farms, and grab all the people who can't get jobs, and bring them in to volunteer.

Paul: Rural outreach is a nicer way of saying rural conscription.

John: On the topic of his shirt, what's with the padded shoulders?

Scott: I think he's a 1980s fashion model.

Paul: I think he's trying to bring to bring vaudeville back.

Conal: It looks like there's dirt all over his posters. They're just kind of filthy.

Scott: I get kind of a post-apocalyptic feel from these.

John: Or purgatory.

VICE PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS & FINANCE)

Zach Fentiman

Conal: He needs to grow into that shirt.

Scott: And that haircut.

Paul: And move out of his parents' house.

John: He looks like he's in a store window, and he's actually just a mannequin.

Paul: I think this is the most mom-approved poster. Mom would love this.

Conal: Although his mom probably cut his hair, which you know, in a VP (Ops Fi), is the kind of stinginess I can vote for.

Scott: Especially during the current economic meltdown.

Paul: It's a recession, so why shouldn't

mom give you a trim?

Scott: I think he spent way too much money on eye polish.

John: He's buffed those babies up!

Paul: Those photos are dreamy, but the kind of dreams you can't get rid of. The kind of dreams that are burned into the retinas—of his and our eyes.

Conal: He could burn ants with the reflection.

John: His eyes are my oyster.

Paul: This fake shadow kind of intimidates me.

John: I think that actually makes him look like a cardboard cutout. So he's actually just putting copies of Zach Fentiman around campus in strategic areas.

Paul: I can vote for that.

Conal: The top of his head is cutoff.

Scott: Did somebody drop a really tiny Acme anvil on his head? Oh God, Zach, I'm sorry, I didn't know.

Paul: "Working with student groups and services to improve the granting process."

Conal: You know, if really wants to address the need for additional student space, he should probably realize that SUBmart doesn't need to be that big. They have a selection of seven candy bars—seven candy bars does not require that much room.

Scott: We could lower the ceilings by a couple of inches, save tens of dollars.

Paul: He looks like the Stepford wife, except a man.

Conal: The Stepford husband, or the Stepford son, in this case.

Paul: Jesse Hahn's Stepford son.

Conal: Or just the stepson who's a lot better at everything and you hate him for that. I'm not going to lie, he has the name of the typical dork in *Saved by the Bell*. Zach Fentiman! He's the guy who's good at math and who you know, the rest of them have to borrow his assignments.

Scott: But with a dreamy Jonas Brothers vibe.

Conal: Although the fact that he's missing part of his head makes him the worst Jonas Brother.

John: He actually could be the lost Jonas Brother.

Scott: I think he could be, yeah.

John: Wait, he might be the fourth Hanson.

Conal: No, because I think Beverly Eastham fits that better. I'm just saying, Taylor Hanson, kinda hot.

VP ACADEMIC

Leah Trueblood

Conal: Leah Trueblood doesn't actually have a poster. I like that: someone who's running unopposed who's like, "You know what, fuck you, you're probably going to vote for me. NOTA never wins."

Paul: I saw her at Shakespeare this weekend—Julius Caesar—so you

know she's well informed on the issues.

Scott: The issues of stabbing Caesar in the back?

Conal: So she knows how to betray.

Paul: And to know the betrayers and the conspirators.

Conal: That's why she didn't put out her posters: then the betrayers would know what she was up to.

Paul: Plus her awesome last name can be given through word of mouth.

Conal: She has the perfect last name for every action movie in the '80s, both in title and main character.

Scott: If she did have a poster, I hope all it would say is "Trueblood" and then her in like a white tank top, grey and gritty.

Conal: No, it has to be her, after a long battle, her shirt is kind of tattered, and she's covered in blood, and oil, and soot, and has a giant, ridiculously large gun in one hand. She has a gun the size of a tree in one hand.

Paul: With her other hand, she's got good grades from where they've been held hostage.

John: *Trueblood*, starring Jean Claude Van Damme

Scott: That would be the best poster ever! I think she wins. She gets best poster.

Paul: This conversation has made her infinitely cooler. Not to say that she wasn't before.

Scott: Her last name is Trueblood, that's it.

Conal: You can't lose. I just want to go full slate Trueblood.

VICE PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE)

Ian Clarke

Paul: Boring!

Scott: That is an unfortunate picture.

Conal: This is Ian Clarke's case file, what with the old typewriter lettering.

Paul: I question the point to have the purple rail behind him. Still, when everything else is black and white.

Scott: That is a lot of purple.

Paul: That is a lot of Ian Clarke.

John: That rail means a lot to him.

Scott: I'm going to need a minute to get over the purple. You guys just keep going.

Conal: Inside of Dewey's—not the best place to take a photo.

John: This photo kind of looks like it was taken by his truancy officer after being caught skipping class.

Conal: This is the end of a rave. That's why they railing is purple, they got all hopped up on E and painted it in a flurry.

Scott: What time did this rave end, 11:30? Because Dewey's is still open.

Conal: It's a responsible rave.

Paul: The University Rave Association.

Scott: We want later raves!

Conal: He wants more space

for his raves.

Conal: My problem is, he says he's "maintaining fee affordability during renegotiations" but he doesn't say anything about afterwards. While we're still under our current contract, he's going to keep it as affordable as it is, up until the renegotiations end, at which point, you're all fucked.

Scott: You don't want to it on a poster, but he's a really bad negotiator. That's what he's saying right there.

Paul: That's why he needs Trueblood, to come in cappin' asses, takin' names, chewing bubble gum.

John: If this man was a police negotiator, no hostage would survive.

Conal: They'd be like, "C'mon, give us what we want!" And he'd be like, "no, c'mon, just let 'em go!" And they'd say, "well, we'd like a million dollars." And he'd reply, "Well, I can't get you a million dollars, but I can be your friend!"

Paul: He's taking about renegotiations, so the fees are going to spike during the initial negotiations, then afterwards he's going to be like, "Guuuuus! C'mon!"

Conal: I feel like this is the friend you haven't seen in a while, and you run into him in SUB and he's like, "Why don't we hang out and go get a beer?" And you have

nothing to do, and you've told him you have nothing to do, so you have to go, and you're like "fuck!"

Paul: Or he adds you on Facebook and you don't reply.

Conal: You can't have him on your Facebook, because all he wants you to do is play Drug Wars, or Zombie Hunter, or Risk. And Magic the Gathering. And he owns a hacky sack but doesn't know how to play.

Paul: That's Ian Clarke: man of disappointment. If he's going for the after-party chill down thing, it vaguely works.

John: He's all about sustainability, so he's just trying to sustain the party.

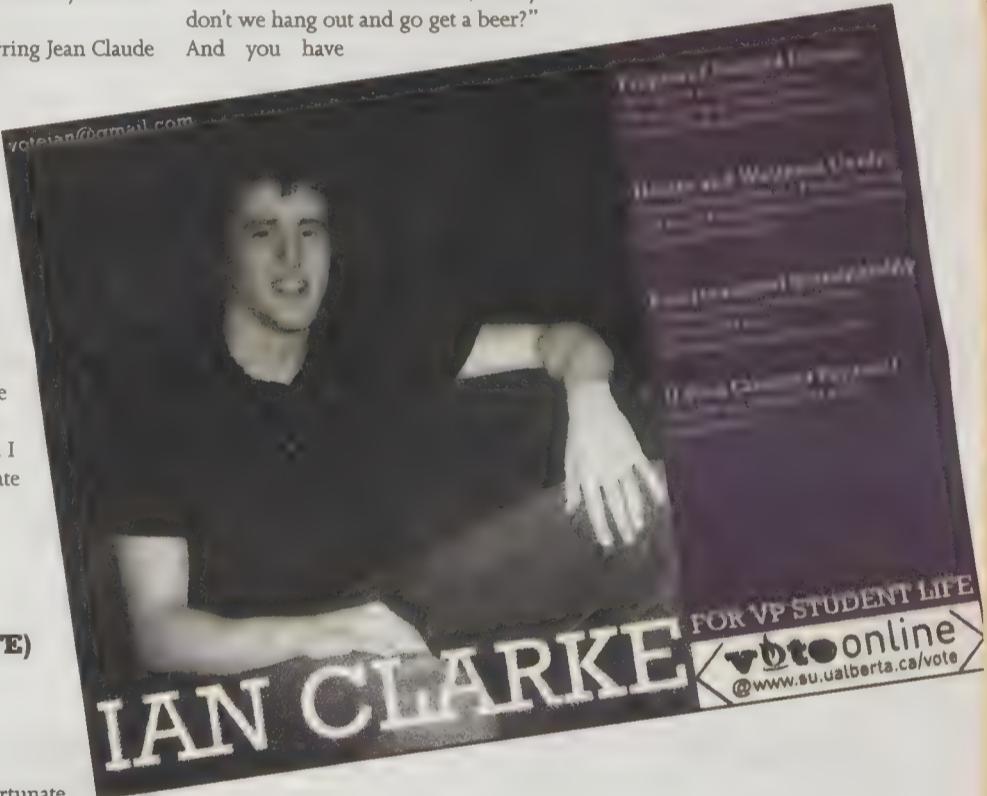
Nick Dehod

Paul: I appreciate that someone has finally been able to make a successful spin on the typically bland SU poster.

John: Yeah, considering the rest of the posters this year, Nick Dehod wins far and away.

Paul: Not only does it capture the fun of the programming side of student life, but it captures the plastic, pre-packaged side.

Conal: He lets you know up front that he's very much a plastic, carbon cutout of a thousand others, and like a Ken Doll, has no balls.



"Trueblood has the perfect last name for every action movie in the '80s, both in title and main character. Her poster would have to be her after a long battle, her shirt is kind of tattered and she's covered in blood and oil and soot and she has a gun the size of a tree in one hand."



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Scott: But the thing is, he doesn't try to hide it. But this is interesting; there's a theme.

Paul: It works for the job.

Jonn: He's willing to laminate himself for you.

Scott: I like the different editions.

Jonn: But apparently in the sustainable edition, all you need to be sustainable is a spade, a cup, and a recycling bin.

Conal: If you can't dig it, drink it, or throw it in a box, it's not sustainable.

Scott: Those are the only three things I own and I have a negative carbon footprint.

Conal: Though to be fair, MacGuyver could probably stop the tar sands with those three things.

Jonn: That basically means that Nick Dehod can make WoW and Antifreeze

happen with just a string and a piece of paper.

Conal: A string and a piece of paper would be a good time with this guy.

Scott: No, for WoW, you'd have to look at the Community Edition, so he's got a foam finger, an extra-large dodgeball and a circa-1982 ghetto blaster.

Conal: With all of the accessories he has here, Nick Dehod is the perfect example of the gift your out-of-touch stepdad buys you. This is what Jesse Hahn gets you for Christmas. It's just a toy that he thinks makes sense to children. But you have an iPhone, a megaspeaker, and a satchel. You have a spade, a cup, and a recycling bin. You have a dodgeball, a ghetto blaster, and a foam finger. These are not accessories that are fun.

Jonn: Also, the ghetto blaster stops working 2 days after the 14-day warranty expires.

Paul: It's hard to isolate them, because he wants to be a playset.

Jonn: But Nick Dehod comes with a no-money-back guarantee. Your money will go to WoW and Antifreeze.

Scott: The one thing, I think, though, with this, and the iPhone, and the briefcase, and the extrawide collar, is that they should just call this the "Loud Douchebag" edition.

Conal: He's the guy who doesn't realize the megaphone's on while he's absentmindedly scrolling through his iPhone muttering "maybe I should check my Twitter."

Conal: You know his arm is going to break off the first time you try to play with it.

Paul: You press the button on the back and he tries to dig.

Jonn: And he'll just end up in your closet, under your He-Man.

Scott: I would make him fight my He-Man.

Jonn: Nick Dehod seems like the kind of guy that you'd stand in front of your Hot Wheels loop and run over with your cars.

Scott: He seems like the kind of guy that the rebellious Makhdoom would put in the microwave.

Conal: He seems like the nerdy side-kick to the superhero who is always getting into a pickle.

Scott: But on to the actual posters, these are done extremely well. He went for an actual feeling and he captured it.

Conal: More than a feeling—he went his own way.

Scott: But everything: the bright red and yellow gradients, the sun ...

Paul: Good poster. As opposed to pretty much everything else.

Jonn: His is easily the most visually appealing.

Paul: Coolest in a while. Probably several years. Ever since that naked poster.

Conal: I would probably pick him up at a flea market.

HEALTH PLAN

Conal: That plus-sign is in need of

medical attention. It has been stabbed 72 times.

Jonn: Well, we're in Edmonton.

Paul: It's a guilt poster.

Scott: Why would I want to vote for "Health Plan minus?"

Conal: It's Health Plan minus the Yes. So we're just getting a Health Plan.

Scott: It's like, we're "Health Plan +", but you're not that kind of people. You want the "Health Plan -".

Paul: The nice thing is you can unconditionally opt-out, so you can back out and deal with your own guilt.

Conal: Well, it's not unconditional, it's "unconditional."

Scott: That is unfortunate cross placement.

Conal: I do like how the most important thing for students is birth control.

Jonn: An ambulance is last.

Conal: Now VannPashak doesn't have to pull out.

Jonn: If you're having a heart attack, you'll get a condom first.

Scott: Then they'll pluck the wisdom teeth right out of your mouth.

Jonn: Then they'll immunize you for the flu, before finally calling 911.

Conal: Kristen Flath probably sat down one day and asked, "what are my medical problems? Well, I need some birth control, my tooth kinda hurts, and maybe I should get a flu shot." Then she heard a siren in the background and remembered, "Oh yeah!"

Scott: She had a really bad day. But I don't know, other than a few missteps with plus signs, and that minus sign, this is an okay poster. It gives you the information you need.

Paul: Except for the irony and sarcasm that may or may not be part of this poster. Vote 'Yessss...'

Scott: They obviously know what the issues are with the health plan, since they have "non-mandatory" in bold and "unconditional" in huge letters.

Conal: Though perhaps we're reading the negative wrong, so the "Health Plan -" is actually what we're voting Yes on. So this is really Anti-Health Plan. They're going to

come out, they're going to cut you, they're going to rip your condoms, immunize you for? Anti-bodies. They basically just inject you with lupus. And they send an ambulance that picks you up, drives you to the outskirts of town, and kicks you with an IV in your arm. An IV full of salt water.

Scott: Students don't need that, we already have the EPS.

Jonn: I like how they have to mention that they're actually going to let your privacy.

Conal: They're like, "Hey, he guess what this guy's got? A lot of condoms!"

Jonn: "And syphilis too!"

Conal: "He's not having sex, who's kidding?"

Scott: "We gave Paul Blinov a whole bunch of birth control. I don't think he understands how things work!"

Paul: I'm not going to have my period for a week.

Scott: I don't think it's a bad poster. **Jonn:** Other than the unconditional thing, it's pretty clean, and the great black-white colour scheme works. Except it works better for them than it does for Aden Murphy.

Conal: I gotta say, Health Plan No is pretty ballsy. They really think this is going to fail. They're thinking, "Fuck that, we're not even coming out today." They got the call, and they're like, "I'm not getting out of bed. I'm not getting off my ass."

Scott: "I can't get out of bed—I'm really sick!"

Conal: Also, their wisdom teeth are sore.

Jonn: Then they phoned 911 and no one showed up.

Conal: Kristen Flath started out on the No side, then realized she had all these problems all at once. She got pregnant with wisdom teeth and the flu, then was hit by a car.

Awards

Poster that's greater than anything we could imagine: Leah Trueblood

Best Real Poster: Nick Dehod

Best Poster that you're ultimately disappointed with when you open the packaging: Nick Dehod

Best Poster for someone running for Head boy of Slytherin: Aden Murphy

Best Pro-Evanescence advertising: Justin VannPashak

Two Posters you don't want to meet at a party: Ian Clarke and Justin VannPashak

Poster most likely to get pollinated: Kory Mathewson

Poster that we already forgot we had talked about: Craig Turner

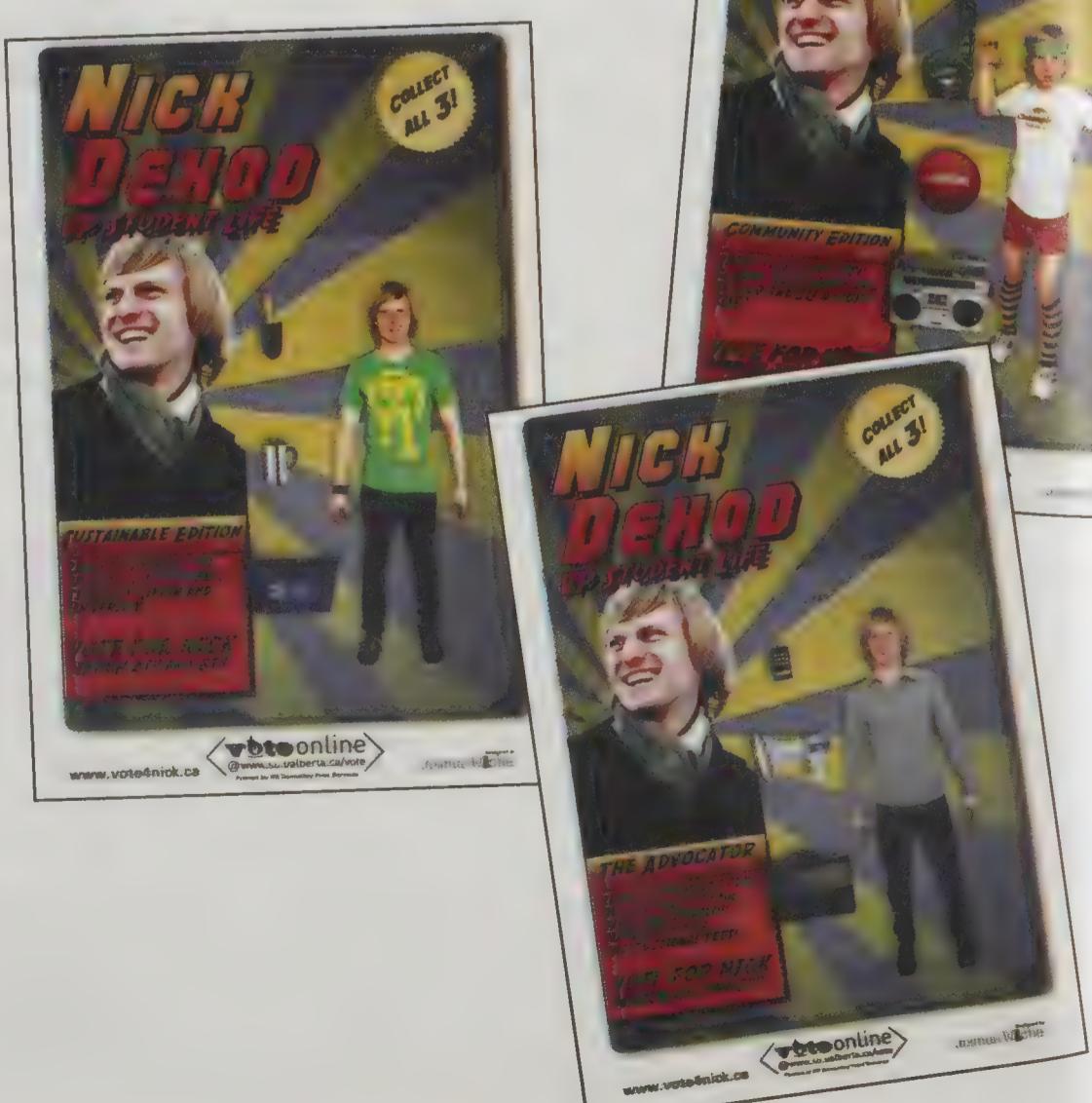
Least picked choice at Baskin & Robbins: Craig Turner

Try-too-hard Stepdad Award: Jesse Hahn

The Award Deficit (or the "No" Award): Mustapha Makhdoom

Poster most likely to be ordered over the Internet: Beverley Eastham

Poster most likely to break a 13-year-old's heart: Zach Fentiman



SOCIAL
INTERCOURSE

FAVA Freshworks

Thursday, 5 March at 7pm
Zeidler Hall (Citadel Theatre,
9328-101A Ave)
\$8 advance/\$10 at the door

Lesser known, but no less important than Edmonton's bustling music scene, are its vibrant network of independent filmmakers who are always hard at work. Thankfully, events like Freshworks give them a much deserved chance to pop up and show the city what they've been busy working on.

Freshworks is a monthly showcase partnered by the Film and Video Arts Society of Alberta (FAVA) and the Metro Cinema. Films range from the light-hearted claymation *Wasps* by James Cadden, to mini-tributes like Patricia Soria's film *Rhymes and Senses* about Edmonton poet Katty Fisher, and even mind-expanding, universe travelling trips like Trevor Anderson's *Carpet Diem*. This month's screening will feature nine short films by seven local filmmakers.

Polaroids: Attila Richard Lukacs and Michael Morris

Saturday, 7 March at 11am
Alberta Art Gallery (10230 Jasper Ave)
\$7 for Students, \$10 for Adults at the door

Artists back to the '60s have used the Polaroid instant camera as a means to capture life candidly and spontaneously, without advantageous lighting or other benefits of photographic technique. So it isn't surprising that Alberta-born painter and photographer Attila Richard Lukacs chose it as the medium for his 20-year exploration of the male body.

His graphic snapshots of the male form—a subject whose beauty he calls understated in our modern artistic era—are sure to raise a bit of controversy along with renown for the Alberta Art Gallery (AGA). But Lukacs photographs, which were selected for the exhibit in collaboration with fellow artist Michael Morris, also have the distinction of being the AGA's first internationally travelling exhibition.

Breaking free from long-set standards for the presentation of male nudity, Lukacs pays testament to the dying art of Polaroid photography—Polaroid announced it would discontinue its cameras in 2008 because of digital manufacturers' control of the market—with his forward-thinking exhibit.

Daniel Wesley

With Dani Jean and Lions For Sheep
Saturday, 7 March at 10pm
St. Albert Taphouse (9020 McKenney Avenue)
\$15 at the door

Daniel Wesley's ganja-fueled reggae rhythms might be born and bred for the hazy forests of his BC homeland, but there are undoubtedly some Albertans who've caught the scent of his foxy talents. The group has been touring voraciously around North America since the release of their first single "Ooh Ohh" in early 2008. But surprisingly, despite their globe-trotting experience and a solid fanbase, they remain unsigned to any label.

Also riding with Wesley is former Edmonton gal Dani Jean, who took off to Vancouver last year in what's now looking like a successful bid to kick-start her career as a touring musician. Jean's own pop-driven, funky style and catchy sound makes it no surprise Wesley selected her as a tour bus buddy.



Eat your heart out, Tom Cochrane

Life has always been a highway for Luke Doucet, except when he's entertaining old people on ships

musicpreview

Luke Doucet and the White Falcon

With Amelia Curran
Friday, 6 March at 7:30pm
Myer Horowitz Theatre (SUB)
\$20 at ticketmaster.ca or SUB Infodesk

ELLIO GOODINE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"You're sitting in your beat-up van, driving down Highway 2 from Calgary to Edmonton, and there's black ice and semi-trailers whipping past you in both directions, doing 140 km/h. If you slip and get into an accident, you're fucked," explains Luke Doucet, regarding his song "Long Haul Driver." Inspired by Doucet's travels as a musician, it's a first-person folk-rocker from the perspective of a Trans-Canadian truck driver, even though it also could double for Doucet's perception of himself.

"[Musicians] tend to be afraid of [truck drivers], but we lead virtually the same lives," he admits. "As you're leering out your window with a combination of terror and disdain at the semi-trailers whipping past you, you realize, 'wait a second, that's who I am. I'm that same person; I'm just driving a smaller vehicle.'"

For Doucet, that smaller vehicle is his guitar, a Gretsch White Falcon. The sizable blanched hollowbody, with mother-of-pearl inlays and gold hardware, is the closest a guitarist can get to a piece of bling.

"I wouldn't be surprised if this is the guitar that I play for the rest of my life," he says fondly.

But the guitar's importance goes far beyond that. The White Falcon is also the name of Doucet's backing band and, in his view, is a bridge between many of his major influences.

"Neil Young played [a White Falcon] until about the early '70s," explains Doucet. "Robert Smith from The Cure also played a White Falcon. Robert Smith and Neil Young, in many ways, couldn't be further apart, but in some ways, the vulnerability that is present in both of their works is something that I identify with."

Although Young and The Cure may appear to be opposing influences, Doucet channels them with ease on his 2008 album *Blood's Too Rich*. Young's influence can be heard in Doucet's spiky country-rock guitar sound, and The Cure shines through in Doucet's songcraft. Smith's influence is especially notable, as the album features Doucet's cover of The Cure hit "The Lovecats."

"I used to tape those speakers to my head to go to sleep at night because I loved *Born in the USA* so much, and who can say what that kind of happiness brings to the world at large?"

LUKE DOUCET

Even though *Blood's Too Rich* was released over a year ago, Doucet is excited to finally hit the road in a headlining slot with his full-length, two-hour show. The past year has seen him crisscrossing the country, playing shorter sets in support of Blue Rodeo and James Blunt as well as Corb Lund's homecoming at Rexall Place. Last month, Doucet played the Ships and Dips cruise, sharing the stage with The Barenaked Ladies, Sloan, and The Weakerthans, among other darlings of Canadian rock.

"It wasn't a typical cruise ship experience, I don't think, although I've never been on a

cruise ship," he notes. "I know musicians who have done the cruise circuit, and they play jazz, big band stuff, or pop songs, but people aren't there to see them. People are there to drink fancy cocktails and meet other old people."

With the amount of journeying he's done, it's not surprising that he relates with truckers. For Doucet, this travel-heavy, nomadic lifestyle is nothing new. Born in Halifax, his family moved to a variety of small towns in Nova Scotia and British Columbia, until finally settling in Winnipeg for the next eleven years. When he was 18, Doucet's wanderlust kicked in again, and he went to Vancouver. Doucet's music has taken him to Nashville, Toronto, and finally to the place he currently calls home: Hamilton.

"There's so much movement involved in my life, to the point when people ask me where I'm from. Even when I'm going to be introduced at a festival in the States where the emcee doesn't know who I am, they say 'where's home?' And I'm stumped," he says.

Ultimately, Doucet's musical travels and the songs that follow are labours of love. He isn't certain about the effect that his own music has on the world, but he's willing to approach the question with optimism and a touch of humility.

"I mean, I know that they make people happy. As a kid, I had these two plastic little Panasonic speakers that I used to connect to my Sony Walkman. When (Bruce Springsteen's) *Born in the USA* came out, that was '84, I was eleven years old. I used to tape those speakers to my head to go to sleep at night because I loved that record so much, and who can say what that kind of happiness brings to the world at large?"

"I know that playing music is a good thing, and I know that it makes people happy, and I think that happiness promotes peace, but I'm not going to suggest that I'm Gandhi because I write songs about my heart. Fuck no. I just write songs."

FOR THE WEEK ENDING
TUESDAY, 3 MARCH

1. FAUNTS

Feel.Love.Thinking.Of
(Friendly Fire)

2. GENTLEMAN REG

Jet Black
(Arts & Crafts)

3. BON IVER

Blood Bank
(Jaguar)

4. MALAJUBE

Labyrinthes
(Dare To Care)

5. AC NEWMAN

Get Guilty
(Matador)6. MARK TEMPLETON
AND AARON MUNSONAcre Loss
(Anticipate)

7. THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Winter
(DDG)

8. LOVE IS ALL

A Hundred Things Keep Me
Up At Night
(What's Your Rupture)

9. COTTON JONES

Paranoid Cocoon
(Suicide Squeeze)

10. ENDANGERED APE

Variations On A Theme
(Independent)

No child is safe in U of A Opera's Hansel and Gretel

operapreview

Hansel and Gretel

Directed by Brian McIntosh

6-7 March at 7:30pm

Timms Centre for the Arts

(87 Ave and 112 St)

\$10 at TIX-on-the-Square

(tixonthesquare.ca)

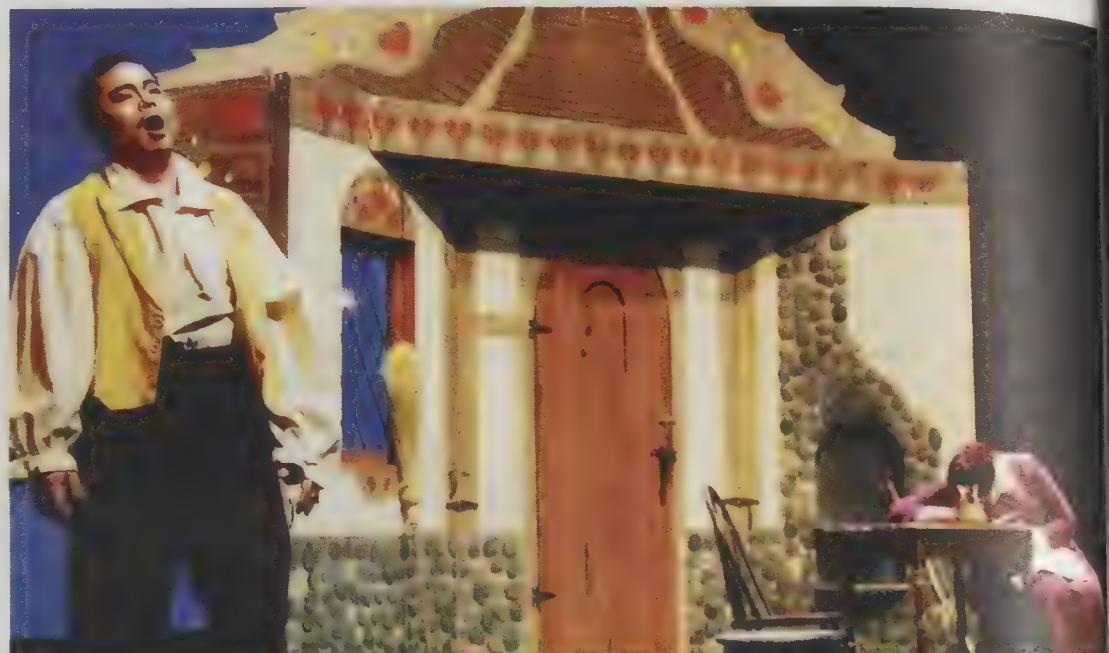
BEN DEXTRAZE

Arts & Entertainment Staff

Any story about kidnapping children and baking them alive is a sentiment that should only be conveyed with a tenor. The classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale *Hansel and Gretel*—about a cannibalistic, child hunting witch who lives in a gingerbread house and lures children with candy—has been given the opera treatment, as the U of A's Opera Workshop presents their first full length production at the University in three years.

"This Grimm tale is actually pretty grim; it's very realistic," says director Brian McIntosh. "As the story goes, you have a family that is very poor and living on the edge of a forest. They're afraid to send their children into the forest because a witch, who supposedly lives there, kills children and bakes them into gingerbread cookies to eat them. One day the children's mother gets angry at them for breaking a jug of milk and sends them into the woods to pick berries."

"When the father comes home from a successful day of selling brooms [...] he discovers his wife has sent his children into the woods—something she shouldn't have done."



McIntosh, the Opera Workshop's new director, has taken on the challenge of adapting the tale to the stage, but his qualifications should be more than sufficient to handle the story of a pair of greedy little children.

"I have been singing opera professionally all over the world since the early '80s—so almost 30 years. I have been teaching at universities since the '90s and I've just recently landed here in Edmonton and things are getting off to a good start," McIntosh says.

As the new head of the Opera and Voice programs at the University's Music Department, McIntosh has been getting things back on track. *Hansel and Gretel* is being staged at the Timms Centre featuring a live orchestra—something that has never been done before.

"We were actually planning to do the

production this year in Convocation Hall, but suddenly the Timms Centre became available at the right time for us. The Drama Department offered it to us, and we accepted because it's a fantastic playing space. Just the lighting alone in this facility is much more suited to opera."

Tracy Cantin is playing the mother in the opera, and expressed similar enthusiasm at the opportunity to work with a symphony.

"It's great that this opera is being done in the Timms because we have the ability to work with an actual stage and a live orchestra. I have never sung with a live orchestra before and students who are paying for their education deserve more opportunities like this one," Cantin says.

After she transferred here from a university in Prince Edward Island,

Cantin was unhappy to land in a department that was undergoing growing pains. However, the recent graduate of the U of A voice program is now hopeful that the Opera and Voice programs are in good hands with McIntosh.

"Brian McIntosh has got the ball rolling on so many things for the Opera Program here—he's just been the greatest asset to the University's Voice Department in years. He is going to make some brilliant changes" Cantin says. "In my two years at the U of A, I didn't really have very many opportunities, as a lot of performances went out the window. For years, there had always been a full staged opera and then the year I came, there was nothing. So I'm thrilled beyond words that this is happening this year."

STUDENT HEALTH PLAN REFERENDUM

Students will vote on the following referendum and plebiscite question on the ballot in the March 4 and 5 students' union election:

Do you support the establishment of an undergraduate health and dental plan as of the Fall semester of 2009, subject to the following conditions:

1. Students have the ability to opt out of the health and/or dental plan;
2. The health and dental plan would cost each student \$192.34 per year for the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 academic year, said fee being assessed by the University with tuition and other non-academic fees;
3. That in subsequent years, any increase or decrease in the cost of the plan will be subject to approval by Students' Council;
4. That the SU Executive be authorized to enter into the necessary contractual agreements with Studentcare.net/works contingent upon the inclusion of acceptable transparency and accountability provisions;
5. That a fee for the undergraduate health and dental plan would continue to be assessed until:
 - a) A duly constituted SU referendum is conducted to rescind the fee and program; or,
 - b) Such a time that Studentcare.net/works terminates the agreement.



For more information about how to register as a member of a plebiscite or referendum side, please email the Chief Returning Officer at cro@su.ualberta.ca

TV shows wither instead of die

CODY
CIVIERO

A&E Commentary

In spite of declining ratings, extortion from cast members, and non-existent quality control, *The Simpsons*, being the television equivalent of Rasputin, has been signed for another two seasons. This will ensure that it replaces *Gunsmoke* as the longest-running series in American television history.

This is, in some aspects, an admirable accomplishment. It has to take imagination to create anything based on a premise that has been going for so long, while still remaining appealing to anyone. But this is outweighed by its shameless selling-out by producing subpar material simply because it's commercially viable. When your characters have to mug for the camera and pause for laughter every five seconds, you're doing it wrong.

But *The Simpsons* is only the worst offender among a diverse field of programs that outlive their ability to stay relevant and entertaining. Successful television series typically have too many seasons, and too many episodes per season, lasting until they've degraded so much that they no longer have an audience. And this is amongst people who will watch absolutely anything.

Thanks to good branding born from early brilliance, Homer's family has been around long enough to stay insipid and recycled for about ten years now, with the most recent

episode revisiting old story elements and throwing in some literal crap jokes.

At this point, the series has produced 431 episodes, and the extended contract guarantees that at least 493 will be created by the time the finale airs.

There's only so much you can do with any given premise. One of the most common problems is that long-running shows get too self-referential once fewer and fewer plotlines become available.

Thanks to good branding born from early brilliance, Homer's family has been around long enough to stay insipid and recycled for about ten years now.

Though short-lived, the otherwise incredible *Arrested Development's* regrettable third season is a perfect example of this. Instead of coming up with new material, they repeatedly revisited old gags in a self-consciously sentimental fashion as if to say, "I know that we're going under guys, but remember this great joke we came up with? Good times."

While the show's early demise is still being mourned by most fans, I suspect that it actually served to preserve its legacy and quality. Already marred by this declining quality by the third and last season, the sequential plotlines would be too much to sustain for a long period of time.

The inciting incidents on which episodes are built also get increasingly strained after a few seasons. *The Sopranos*, in need of new characters to replace those sleeping with the fishes, constantly introduced new characters that were supposedly well-known and liked yet never previously mentioned. And recent *Simpsons* episodes have become infamous for openings that jump around aimlessly until something resembling a plot is eventually bumped into.

By comparison, Ricky Gervais' *Extras* and original *The Office* series each lasted for two short seasons and totaling 14 respective episodes and two specials. If either program seems to have ended too soon, it's because the people involved had the sense to quit while they had reached their plateau instead of soiling their product with cynical, hacked-together cash grabs.

While Gervais' *Office* was consistently relatable as well as funny, the American counterpart has resorted to fat suits and non-sequiturs. They couldn't continue to produce episodes while relating the material to their audience—the point of the average workplace setting in the first place—so it's become a low-brow, outlandish, and absurd mockery of the original. This isn't necessarily a bad thing if done right, but for a show that started out grounded in reality, it creates a hell of an identity crisis.

I call upon everyone to stop taking crap from TV writers and support quality over quantity. Even the most talented pensmiths can't craft great programming on a weekly basis for decades. For the medium to ever sustain quality shows, this needs to be recognized.

albumbattle

Luke Jackson

...And Then Some
Urban Myth Records

VS

Public
...And In The End, Release
Independent



DAVID JOHNSTON
Entertainment Staff

The plan: pick two albums and pit them against each other in a gruesome deathmatch until a victor emerges. There can be only one!

First Track

Luke Jackson: "Come Tomorrow," a whimsical little tune so overwhelmingly positive that it feels like it was written for that *Simpsons* throwaway joke band "Hooray For Everything!" This would be a problem, were it not for the fact that the song is completely awesome, with the perkiness, pep, and perfect harmonies that circle all the way around from ironic to genuine, bringing a smile to the listener's face. **Public:** "Walk Away," a middle-of-the-road anthem that wouldn't be out of place on *Rock Band 2*, complete with staticky vocals (a problem that persists throughout the EP), an artificially inserted guitar solo, and a pounding bass line. Sample line: "I don't know what you say when you're talking to me because I'm not listening." At least there's a correlation there.

Advantage: Jackson—I mean, Hooray for Everything! How can you say no?

Best Track

Jackson: Definitely "Goodbye London," an offbeat, upbeat breakup song wherein Jackson bids farewell to all the elements of his beloved

hometown. ("Goodbye candor! Goodbye dodgy Thai cuisine!") Man, I want this to be a Rock Band song just so I can sing that line.

Public: "After All," closes the album sweetly, melodically, and a lot more intelligible than the rest of the score. A well-built song that only gets better on repeat listens. And the vocals are actually intelligible! It's a miracle!

Advantage: Jackson—I could seriously listen to him poke fun at buskers and muggers all day.

Worst Track

Jackson: "This Life," a rather whiny, screeching reiteration of the album's cookie-cutter message. It's only made worse by the sudden appearance of Jackson's British accent—not that it's bad, but it was conspicuously absent in the last song and its sudden arrival throws the listener off-balance.

Public: "Traffic," wherein singer Chris Stopa appears to be having a fight with the microphone and refuses to stand within five feet of it. Or pronounce any non-mumbled consonants. Or sing about anything meaningful. It's a song that at times is so irritating that it inspires road rage.

Advantage: Public. In the end, their lowlights aren't that flashy, while Jackson's problem areas detract from an otherwise enjoyable set.

Album Name

Jackson: Beginning your album with

"...And"? Not pulling the title from any of the content on the disc? How much more pretentious can you get? The other one's definitely winning, no matter what it...

Public: Dammit.

Advantage: Everyone loses.

Cover Art

Jackson: He's sitting on an armchair pretending to play his guitar in the most calculated Musical Douche/Genius pose he could come up with—folk enthusiasts know the pose I'm talking about. That one where he's just about to play and you interrupted him. Yeah. That one.

Public: Some kind of Rorschach/Escher rendition of their faces. Or maybe Elvis. Or a series of Kabuki masks. Somehow this apparently represents their overarching theme of releasing in the end.

Advantage: I guess Jackson's cover at least looks like it might contain music, as opposed to Public's seriously screwed-up picture.

Verdict

Jackson takes the prize by a margin of three to one. Sudden accent-emergence and often twee harmonies aside, his music is definitely more listenable. Plus, he's considerably more memorable than Public who, somewhat unusually for a self-produced group, pretty much just play it safe the whole time.

What's the meaning of life?
Turn to page 20 to find out!

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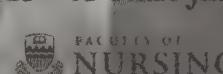
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albumreview**Welcome Wagon**Welcome to the Welcome Wagon
Asthmatic Kitty RecordsTYLER REEKIE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

When you pick up an album that has the quote "Pastor and Wife join voices in sacred folk songs for all ages" on its cover, your eyes have a strong, tendency to roll into the back of your head. And it's moments after pushing the play button that we must cross this molehill that most of us face when listening to Welcome Wagon. With a breathy voice, the Wife sings, "Up on a mountain, our lord sits alone / without a family, friends or a home. He cries ooh, ooh, ooh." It's a little startling, and it may cause a bit of a snicker the first time.

But have no fear, as *Welcome to the Welcome Wagon* was produced, arranged, and composed by Sufjan Stevens under his Asthmatic Kitty label. He blends these lyrics with the soulful sounds of bluegrass and folk, and it's this mixture that really makes this album work as something more than your average liturgical music. It's a

beautiful synthesis, blending baroque pop sensibility with the gospel hymns of the Pastor and his Wife keeping that church music aroma. All this without getting up early on Sunday morning.

After checking out some pictures on their website, I noticed something very familiar: Williamsburg plaid shirts, designer aviators, and skinny jeans. Though they may look like hipsters, that's just a ramification of living in their hometown of Brooklyn.

The tracks are bona fide to their quote on the album cover as sacred folk songs, and with the musical angel of Sufjan Stevens composing over their shoulders, everything is brilliantly kept honest, simple, and soulful. This is a good pop folk album with a Presbyterian twist and an enjoyable listen, if you don't mind songs about Jesus.

**albumreview****Five Finger Death Punch**Way of the Fist
Firm RecordsIAN PHILLIPCHUK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

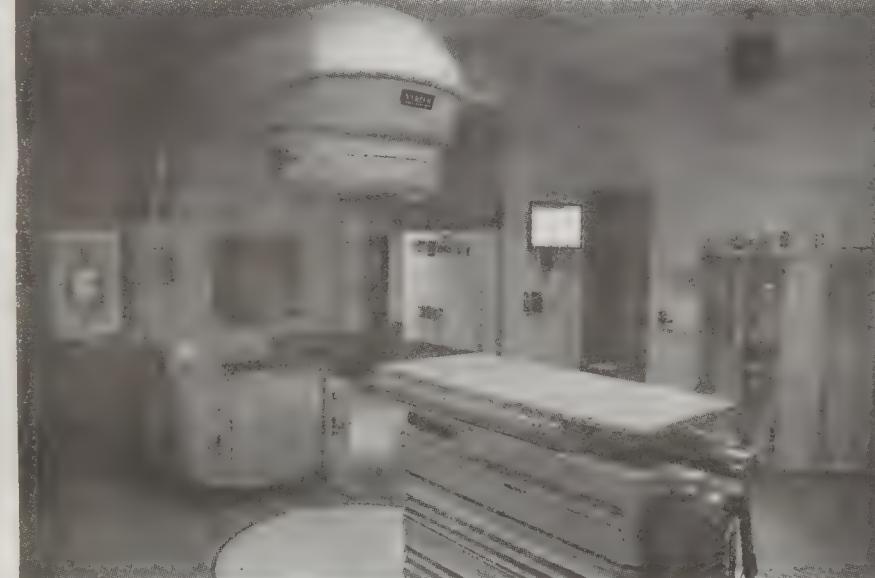
varied approach taken here is appreciated, as it makes you appreciate the skill all the more.

The same can't be said of the guitars, though. The band features two different guitarists, and neither manages to stand out at all. The riffs and solos are fairly ordinary, uncreative, and ultimately disappointing. The bass is worse. Sure, in most metal bands, the bass is pretty redundant, but *Way of the Fist* wouldn't change much if bassist Matt Snel was replaced by a potted plant.

Five Finger Death Punch would be in trouble if the vocals and drums couldn't overcome the mediocrity of the rest of the disc, but *Way of the Fist* manages to rise above its worse elements and what results is a pretty formulaic, though excellent album that manages to avoid the pitfalls that plague traditional metal.

BECOME A RADIATION THERAPIST

The Alberta Cancer Board/Alberta Health Services is expanding to include Radiation Services in Lethbridge, Red Deer, and Grand Prairie. When open, these new Radiation Therapy sites will result in the creation of over 30 new Radiation Therapist positions in addition to opportunities in Calgary and Edmonton. The Alberta School of Radiation Therapy is looking for mature and compassionate individuals with exceptional interpersonal skills to join us in Creating a Cancer Free Future!

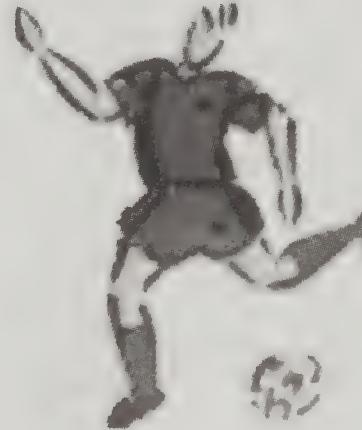


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McKernan Hall - Saturday, March 7 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM; Belgravia Hall - Sunday, March 8 from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

For more information on the Youth Program, go to <http://www.swemsa.com/> and follow the links for Belmac Soccer. For more information on the Adult Program, go to <http://www.edsa.org> and check "Teams Seeking Players".

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Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences	1	2	Engineering	4	5	Open Studies	1	0
Arts	6	8	Law	1	1	Physical Education & Recreation	1	1
Augustana	1	1	Medicine & Dentistry	1	1	Pharmacy	1	1
Business	2	3	Native Studies	1	1	Faculté Saint-Jean	1	1
Education	3	4	Nursing	1	1	Science	6	9



CANADA WEST STATISTICS

Final 2008/09 Women's Hockey Standings

Team	GP	W	L	OTL	+/-	PTS
	24	22	2	0	+113	44
	24	21	2	1	+59	43
	24	10	13	1	-2	21
	24	8	15	1	-55	17
	24	7	16	1	-53	15
	24	4	19	1	-62	9

Final 2008/09 Women's Hockey Scoring Leaders

Player	Team	GP	G	A	P
1 Tarin Podloski	AB	24	23	38	61
2 Miranda Miller	AB	24	28	23	51
3 Alana Cabana	AB	24	13	31	44
4 Leah Copeland	AB	24	13	21	34
George	SASK	22	15	17	32
Miles	MAN	24	14	18	32
Brade	MAN	24	19	9	28
8 Steph Ramsay	AB	23	6	18	24
9 Jenn Newton	AB	24	13	10	23
ne Kisil	MAN	24	8	14	22
a Purcell	SASK	24	7	15	22
Geough	REG	24	6	16	22
Leary	MAN	24	3	17	20
Stone	SASK	22	13	6	19
tebeski	MAN	24	9	10	19
Christiansen	SASK	24	6	13	19
Nellie Minshall	MAN	24	6	13	19
elby Ballendine	LETH	22	12	5	17
elsey Tulloch	SASK	24	7	10	17
Meghan Ross	MAN	24	4	13	17
21 Kelsie Graham	REG	24	7	9	16
22 Andrea Boras	AB	24	3	13	16
23 B Melnychuk	LETH	19	4	11	15
K McCutcheon	REG	24	7	7	14
25 Sarah Hilworth	AB	24	9	4	13

Final 2008/09 Goaltending Leaders

Player	Team	W	L	OTL	GAA
1 Dana Vinge	AB	17	2	0	1.02
2 Cindy Corfield	MAN	21	2	0	1.55
3 Chaunta Armet	SASK	5	5	0	2.70
4 Vanessa Frederick	SASK	3	6	0	3.26
5 Mackenzie Rizos	LETH	3	13	0	3.84
6 Melinda Choy	UBC	7	14	1	3.98
7 Lisa Urban	REG	7	16	1	4.24

Women's Hockey Playoff Matchups

(1) Alberta vs (4) UBC

Game 1: Friday, 6 March, 7pm

Game 2: Saturday, 7 March, 7pm

Game 3 (if necessary): Sunday, 8 March, 2pm

(2) Manitoba vs (3) Saskatchewan

Game 1: Thursday, 5 March, 7pm

Game 2: Friday, 6 March, 7pm

Game 3 (if necessary): Saturday, 7 March, 3:30pm



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE SOMEBODY'S WATCHING ME The Pandas will open up their quarterfinal matchup against the UBC Thunderbirds on Friday night.

Puck Pandas open postseason

Alberta looking to put away a Thunderbirds squad that they've outscored by a 37-3 margin in six meetings

EVAN DAUM
Sports Writer

For the first time in three weeks, the Pandas hockey team will hit the ice as they open up a Canada West semi-final playoff series against the UBC Thunderbirds on Friday night. The team enters the weekend after locking up first place in their final regular season series back in February against the Regina Cougars.

The team has been without five of their top players including defenders Stephanie Ramsay, Andrea Boras, and Rayanne Reeve, along with snipers Leah Copeland and Jennifer Newton. The Pandas "fab five" were in Harbin, China the past two weeks representing Canada in the 24th Winter Universiade, where they helped our nation capture gold in women's ice hockey inaugural run at games.

The time away from game action has been an adjustment for Pandas head coach Howie Draper.

"It was a little tough. Basically, we were down

to two-thirds of our team, so that makes it difficult from a team preparation standpoint," Draper said. "We did a lot of individual work—conditioning was primary. But we did a lot of other things specifically on the defensive side of the game."

The Pandas will be facing a UBC team that squeaked into the playoffs narrowly ahead of Regina, in part thanks to the Pandas sweep of the Cougars in the Saskatchewan capital city three weekends ago.

"Basically, we were down to two-thirds of our team, so that makes it difficult from a team preparation standpoint. We did a lot of individual work—conditioning was primary."

HOWIE DRAPER
PANDAS HOCKEY HEAD COACH

The key for Alberta will be getting a quick start against the T-Birds and, ideally, to beat UBC netminder Melinda Choy early and often.

"We've had a lot of success against their goalie this year. The first series we played against them

she gave us a bit of a tougher time, but the key is to get a lot of shots at her. We want to make sure that she doesn't have an opportunity to see all the pucks that we shot," Draper explained.

Despite the success the Pandas have had against Choy, she remains one of the Thunderbirds' bright spots, and was UBC's lone representative on the Universiade women's hockey squad.

"She's a great goalie—she's probably the strongest point in their game, but if we play our game we should do well against her," Draper reiterated.

The Pandas will no doubt be the favourites to capture another conference title thanks in large part to their explosive offensive attack, headed by CIS leading scorer Tarin Podloski and her 61-point campaign—a new CIS single season record.

Along with Podloski, the Pandas boast three more scorers in the conference's top five, including the country's top goal scorer Miranda Miller and her 28 goals.

As per usual for Alberta, the end result is more about what they can do, as opposed to what their opposition can do.

"UBC has a good team, but I think if we can set the tempo and make a statement early we should be okay."

Action goes Friday and Saturday night at 7pm at Clare Drake Arena, and again Sunday if necessary in the best-of-three series.

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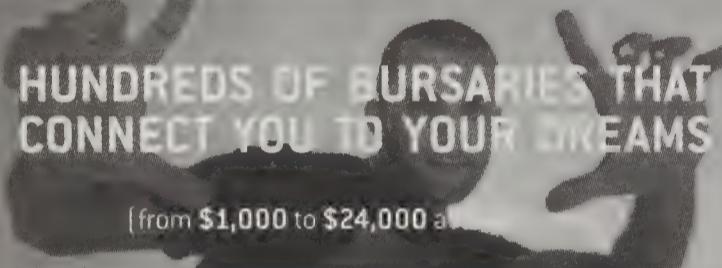
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Useless players, bad decision-making highlight poor trades

SPORTS STAFF

Group Commentary

With the NHL's annual trade deadline having come and gone, now is the time when we all sit back and start to judge who actually ended up making the best acquisitions.

For the Gateway Sports staff, this time of the year brings back memories of all sorts of shitty trades that have occurred over the years—here are our favourites that don't involve Wayne Gretzky and the Kings.

Matt Pretty

There have been an awful lot of questionable trades in my lifetime as an Oilers fan. But only one trade sticks out in my memory as being completely, unequivocally horrible, with no particular rationale that I could understand at the time. It happened in March 1997 around trade deadline time—GM Glen Sather dealt promising Oiler Miroslav Satan, in his second NHL season, to the Buffalo Sabres for defencemen Craig Millar and forward Barrie Moore.

At the time, I was ten. I remember thinking to myself, “dang, Satan’s leaving. But hey, we get two guys back. That’s good, right?”

Not so much.

Moore played a total of four—count ‘em, four—games for the Oilers before the end of the 1996/97 season and that was it. After that, it was off to the AHL to live out the rest of his unpromising career. Millar fared marginally better, putting in 36 games with the big club in two-and-change seasons split between the Oilers and former minor-league affiliates, the Hamilton Bulldogs. He was later flipped to Nashville for a draft pick.

So, let’s do the math here, shall we? That’s 40 NHL games and four NHL goals, all belonging to Millar. As for Satan? Oh, all he did was score 40 goals in the 1998/99 season. And he wasn’t a one-shot wonder, either—in the ten NHL seasons before this one, he played seven with the Sabres and three with the New York Islanders. During that span, he’s missed a total of eleven games and scored 294 goals, including eight seasons with 25 or more goals and four with 30-plus. I

think we lost a little bit on that deal, there, Slats.

Ever since that trade, the Oilers have been looking for pure scorers and generally failing to find them. Coincidence? I think not. After all, a devilish name like Satan must have something going for it in the way of curses.

Nick Frost

Going into the 2003 NHL Entry Draft, the Oilers owned the 17th overall pick in one of the deepest draft pools ever—in fact, of all the players selected in the first-round that year, only Hugh Jessiman (drafted 12th overall by the Rangers) has failed to garner any NHL experience.

Seemingly unsure of what gem to select from the diamond mine, Edmonton traded its pick to the New Jersey Devils for the 22nd overall selection. While this might not seem like a poorly thought-out deal, the frustrating part comes clear when you fill in the blanks: the Devils used their first-round pick to draft Zach Parise and the Oilers used theirs to draft Marc-Antoine Pouliot.

Now, I’m no professional hockey scout; I’m simply that guy who sits on his sofa yelling obscenities at the TV when shit like this happens. Once the Sharks selected forward Steve Bernier at 16, the next selection seemed like a relatively obvious decision from my perspective.

Parise, after all, was exhibiting the hockey sense and skill in college necessary to carry himself at the pro level. To boot, it didn’t hurt that he happened to be the son of former NHL All-Star JP Parise. Currently, the 2004 World Juniors MVP is fourth in league scoring with 77 points in his third NHL season. Simply put: he always has been and always will be superior to Pouliot.

And it’s not that I necessarily thought Pouliot was going to bust; however, it’s clear that his junior success with the Rimouski Oceanic was largely the byproduct of linemate Sidney Crosby. Had Boy Wonder not been there inflating his numbers, Pouliot would’ve likely been a third- or second-round pick at best, much like their Oceanic linemate Dany Roussin was in 2005.

In the end, however, all of this wasn’t convincing enough for Kevin Lowe and company, so, instead, they traded down and resigned themselves to taking the lesser centre. The even sadder part is that they could’ve

salvaged the trade by taking Mike Richards, who went two spots later to the Philadelphia Flyers.

John Keohane

While trading in sports is an inexact science at best, it’s important that sports fans recall that everybody makes mistakes. However, some exchanges are so catastrophically one-sided, so mind-numbingly unfair, that they deserve special recognition as The Shitty Trade (TST). The TST has several key features. First, it must rob a team of a promising young player, the sort of potential dynamo which any franchise in any league covets as an invaluable commodity. Second, this budding prospect must be replaced by an inferior player, preferably of more advanced age, who manages to not only underachieve in his new threads, but manages to underwhelm to such a degree that it appears comical—utterly jettisoning the sporting hopes of an entire city in one clumsy swoop. Third, the departed wunderkind must have a hand in delivering a title to his new fans almost immediately upon arrival, whilst the aged replacement and his hapless team hover in perpetual title limbo.

In the summer of 1996, all of these necessary elements combined, and a monumental TST came to pass. The Los Angeles Lakers received Kobe Bryant, who had entered the league directly from high school, in a swap with the Charlotte Hornets that saw Vlade Divac leave La-La land. And while Divac went on to enjoy a productive NBA career—earning, in the process, league-wide renown for his ability to suck back two packs of death-sticks a day—one-sided does not begin to describe the nature of this deal. Kobe has evolved into a transcendent player, perhaps the second best shooting guard of all time. He helped deliver three-straight championships to the city of Los Angeles, and, despite a nasty spat with teammate Shaquille O’Neal and a wee old rape charge, continues to produce at an incredibly high level. KB24 is a mortal lock for the Hall of Fame.

Meanwhile, Divac enjoyed two semi-productive campaigns with Charlotte (averaging close to 11.5 points) and several seasons of relative proficiency in Sacramento. If the trade was to be evaluated on lung capacity, then Vlade would surely come up smelling roses—Marlboro roses. Alas, in terms of production, league impact, and championships, Kobe comes out on top.



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

PASS ME THE ROCK Pandas Kristin Jarock (10) finds herself surrounded by several Calgary Dinos.

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Hoop Pandas look to claim gold in Regina

After coming away with third-place at Can West, Alberta's women have their sights on wins at nationals

NICK FROST
Sports Editor

With a bronze medal in their back pocket from the Canada West tournament, the Pandas basketball team will shoot for even greater success on a bigger stage when they travel to Regina this weekend for the CIS Championships. Alberta comes into the national playdown as the fourth-ranked team of the eight qualifiers and will meet up with the fifth-ranked Laval Rouge et Or in their quarterfinal matchup on Friday night.

If the Canada West showdown last weekend at Simon Fraser was any indication, the Pandas are capable of taking just about any team to the brink. As evidenced by their convincing win against the Central Division Champion Saskatchewan Huskies and their strong offensive charge in a losing effort to the number-one seed SFU Clan, Alberta will need more complete efforts on both sides of the court in order to knock off the top teams that stand in their way.

"We played the number-one team in the country who's playing extremely well right now and they shot the ball really well—they were on fire that night," Pandas head coach Scott Edwards said. "Things came together well offensively, but we didn't play as good as we would've liked defensively. It was still a strong showing, but I think the 15-point difference was a bit of a misnomer on the game itself—we got it within two

a couple of times in the fourth quarter, but just couldn't pull it off."

Coming into their first-round matchup with the Rouge et Or, the Pandas find themselves facing not only the Quebec Champions, but the challenge presented by unfamiliarity as well. According to Edwards, the best way to combat the uncertainty shrouded in facing an opponent they aren't used to is to keep their focus squarely fixated on their own game, with minor adjustments coming throughout the course of the match.

"The thing that we've been talking about most is that we just have to focus on ourselves," Edwards explained. "In a tournament like this where you don't have a lot of prep time on anybody, unless you've played them before, you have to concentrate on your own game. There's little things that you'll worry about here and there when you're actually in the game, but we need to focus on us executing as best as we can."

The Rouge et Or come into the tournament with an experienced squad that finished their regular season at 11-5. Though Edwards expects a formidable challenge from Laval, he also believes that there isn't anything that gives their Quebec opponents a distinct advantage over his team.

"We did play Laval two years ago and they have a lot of the same players on the team from then, but, obviously, things will be different now," Edwards noted. "They're big and athletic—a number of their kids in the program are in the 5'11" to 6'1" range and they're very well coached by one of our national team coaches, so I expect a great challenge from there. They're a younger team in terms of eligibility years, but not in terms of age as a number of them have been playing college basketball for quite a while, so I expect it'll be a heck of a first-round game for us."

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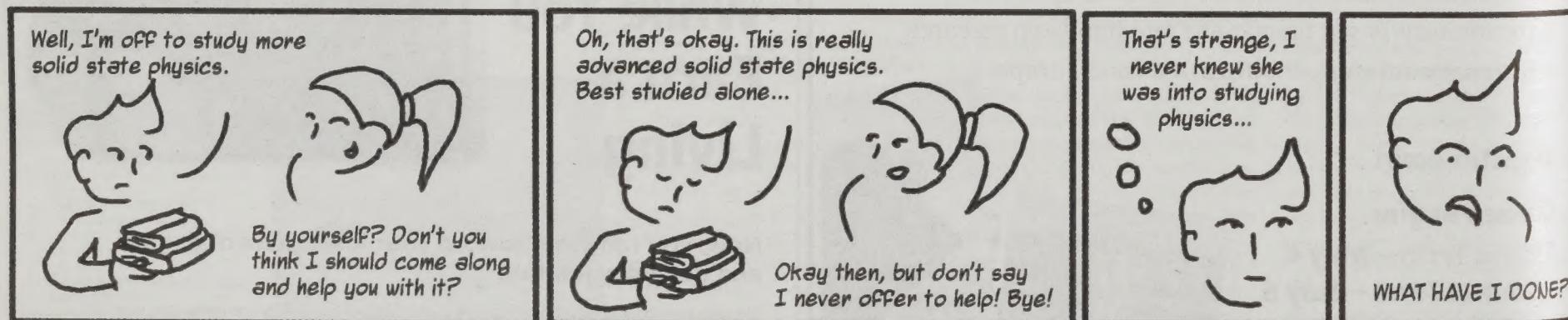
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Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Asia Skudlarek, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 6 March 2009.** Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

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All terms run from 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2010. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. Four issues of the Gateway will be produced over the summer months. All line editors will be expected to train on at least three of the four summer issues (unless granted leave by the hiring committee) for an honorarium of \$100/issue. In their full-time capacities, the salaries for each position are as follows: Managing and Senior News will receive \$1625.43* per month, all other line editors will receive \$1281.88* per month. Please note that candidates may apply for no more than two (2) positions, except by special dispensation of the Line Editor Selection Committee. Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Asia Skudlarek, 780-492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by noon on Friday, 13 March 2009.** Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

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